

# Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk November 10, 2013

Mid edition No 581

**NEWS »**

**Council tax bills  
will rise as KCC  
unveils budget**  
Hundreds of jobs could go too

**HEALTH »**

**Rabies alert  
after cat death**  
Ports tighten controls

**CRIME »**

**What caused  
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to erupt?**  
Investigation begins

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# Kent on Sunday

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## Pay a very personal tribute to our war heroes this weekend

REGARDLESS of your opinion on conflict, the political decisions which underpin it and the ideological goals which spark it, we should all be able to find time this weekend to honour those who have fought and died while representing our nation.

From the young men torn from their families and ordered to fight during the two world wars, only to be ripped apart by machine gun fire, to those men and women who join the Army today knowing what horrors their chosen career may take them into, we can all find a generation to empathise with and to mourn this weekend.

They deserve our respect and a permanent place in our memory.

Inside this weekend's special remembrance edition we take a look at three fascinating stories. One is of a 95-year-old veteran from the Second World War who fought in Europe and north Africa.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

His memories of the ferocity of battle and an intense pride to fight for his country remains as strong today as they did back then.

Casting an eye further back, we shine the spotlight on Siegfried Sassoon, the war poet who fought bravely during the First World War while also questioning the orders which sent so many to their death. From his childhood in Kent, we look at his remarkable life.

And reporter Joe Bill was given a guided tour around one of the county's hidden secrets - a village dedicated to providing care, support and employment for those emerging from the forces today and finding themselves struggling to cope with civilian life.

But, perhaps most importantly, is a guide to where to pay your respects this weekend; the chance to join your local community to remember them. Let's we forget.

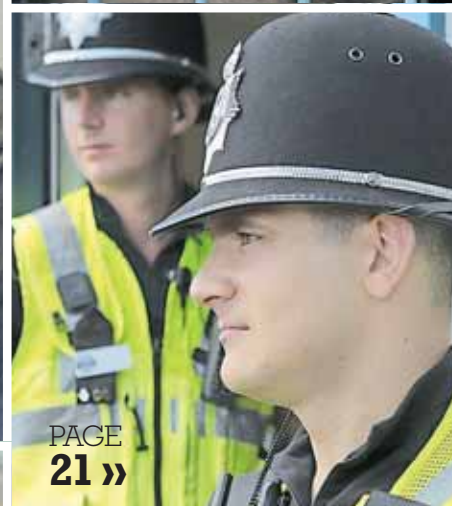
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# Jobs to be slashed as our council tax bills increase

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

KENT'S taxpayers could be hit with a 1.9 per cent hike in council tax next year as County Hall chiefs try to save £92 million in the wake of yet more government cuts and additional spending pressures.

Overall, Kent County Council faces a huge shortfall of £273m over the next three years, with the expected loss of hundreds more jobs and outsourcing of services.

Earlier this year council leader Paul Carter said there would be a "whole council transformation".

These latest savings, revealed on Friday at the launch of the public consultation into the budget, come on top of £269m already saved in the last three years, which led to some 1,500 job losses.

Cllr Carter had retained a council tax freeze since 2011/12, but in this latest plan has proposed a rise of 1.99 per cent. Raising it by more than two per cent would require a referendum.

The proposed hike – amounting to around £18 per year for a Band C property – will raise £10m for council coffers.

Other ways in which the council



**COUNTY HALL:** Tough decisions have been made in an effort to balance the county's books

has proposed to save money over three years is through a cut to the workforce, saving some £24.8m, as well as a transformation of adult services, saving £27m. Specialist children's services could also be hit, saving £7.3m, as well as £2.5m on children's centres, with some already earmarked for closure.

Adolescent services could be scaled back to the tune of £15.2m

and Supporting People – which provides housing-related support services, such as homeless hostels and women's refuges – by £3.4m.

Cllr Carter said this latest round of spending cuts will be the "toughest yet" and will leave "no public service untouched".

But he stressed KCC was determined to maintain good quality services "against rising

demand, less central government funding and national inflationary pressures".

He said: "Massive change to the way KCC conducts its business is under way to respond and face up to the significant challenges ahead."

Residents can give their views on the budget plan by visiting [www.kent.gov.uk/budget](http://www.kent.gov.uk/budget).

## KCC service heads to be told "there is no money" as axe falls on budgets

FINANCE chiefs at Kent County Council have confirmed there will be job losses across the authority in an effort to save cash over three years.

But just how many or where they will fall remains unclear with KCC insisting it will be "innovative" in the ways it looks to save money.

With a potential saving of £24m on staff, however, the job cull could be in the hundreds.

Deputy leader and cabinet member for finance, John Simmonds, confirmed there would be a "smaller staff at the end of it all".

"I haven't got a cold blooded figure down of how many we are losing but I do have a figure of what budgets the directorates and services will have to manage," he said.

"We will say to service managers - 'this is the budget we have, you've got to manage within that budget - there is no more money'."

"But I don't mind if people manage their budgets by generating increased income rather than saving costs."

There are currently about 12,000 KCC employees, excluding schools,

with 8,000 permanent and 4,000 part-time positions.

Cllr Simmonds says KCC will look to "transform" some services in order to save money rather than just simply trimming positions.

He said: "We do lose about 12.5 per cent of our staff through natural wastage every year, through people retiring or moving on to other jobs."

"We are probably taking on more staff at the moment in a sense because we have to put the resources in to get results. In children's services for example, we are taking on more social workers and foster carers because our own foster carers cost £400-per-week but for external carers it costs £900. So its obviously in our interests to employ more."

"There will be job losses as a result of the change, but numbers are very difficult to forecast over the period of time. What we have stressed to the staffing body is that the important thing is to transform the services."

Every service KCC provides will now undergo a complete review to look at redesign or whether it will be outsourced - or delivered at all.

## Memorial service confirmed for former Kent captain

A MEMORIAL service to one of Kent County Cricket Club's greatest servants will take place in Canterbury Cathedral later this month.

David Clark played more than 75 matches for the county side from 1946, captaining the side from 1949-51.

In addition, he served as club chairman from 1970-74 and was president in 1990.

Born in Barming, near Maidstone, he died last month aged 94.

The service will take place on Tuesday, November 26, at 3pm. To attend, email Alison Davies at [alison.davies.kent@ecb.co.uk](mailto:alison.davies.kent@ecb.co.uk) or call 01227 456886. After the service, afternoon tea is being held at the Chiesman Pavilion at the St Lawrence Ground from 4pm. All are invited.

## Arrest after major probe into people trafficking claim

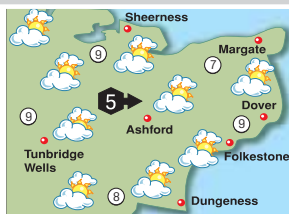
A 35-year-old Gillingham man has been arrested on suspicion of exploiting Slovakian nationals living in Medway.

It followed a major investigation into allegations that foreign workers were being forced to live in squalid conditions and threatened with violence if they did not comply.

Victims were often working up to 60 hours a week for just

£10-£15.

A Kent Police probe, supported by the Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA), the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC), HMRC, Red Cross and the Department for Work and Pensions, saw officers carry out warrants in the early hours of Thursday at addresses in Windsor Road and Richmond Road, Gillingham.



**TODAY:** A bright day with a few showers. Gentle winds. Cold. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F). **TONIGHT:** Cloud building as rain pushes in. Min temp 5-8C (41-46F).

**TODAY'S HIGH TIDE** (Metres)

|           |       |     |       |     |
|-----------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| Dover     | 03.36 | 6.1 | 16.18 | 5.9 |
| Margate   | 04.25 | 4.4 | 17.17 | 4.4 |
| St Mary's | 09.39 | 5.0 | 22.18 | 4.6 |

#### WEEK AHEAD

|           |         |        |
|-----------|---------|--------|
| Monday    | Max 15C | Min 9C |
| Tuesday   | Max 13C | Min 4C |
| Wednesday | Max 11C | Min 3C |
| Thursday  | Max 12C | Min 4C |
| Friday    | Max 10C | Min 4C |
| Saturday  | Max 11C | Min 7C |

Information supplied by **MeteoGroup**

## Children left in tears after street swords drama

TWO men who brandished swords in front of terrified youngsters after a child's hula hoop had bumped into their vehicle were this week jailed.

Robert Dewar, 46, and Christopher Coburn, 59, emerged from their homes in Thorold Road, Chatham, on June 3 after the incident.

In front of other children playing outside, they confronted the child's mother and threatened to

damage her partner's car.

Coburn waved a two-foot long sword above his head, while Dewar held one almost twice the size.

As the children watched on, scared and in tears, police were called and both men arrested.

Coburn received 12 months for affray and eight months for having an offensive weapon. Dewar got eight months for having an offensive weapon.



**DRILLING:** Application withdrawn

## Campaigners' delight as gas tests scrapped

EXPLORATORY drilling applications for methane gas, which could have led to the controversial process of fracking at three sites in east Kent, have been withdrawn.

But campaigners who were fighting the plans say they expect the firm behind the drilling, Coastal Oil and Gas, to resubmit an application in the coming months.

The plans had been for three test boreholes to extract coal bed methane in Tilmannstone, Guston and Shepherdswell.

Protect Kent, the county's branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, had campaigned vigorously against the test boreholes because of the geological conditions of the application sites.

It claimed groundwater was vulnerable to contamination as a consequence of the process.

Graham Warren, chairman of CPRE Protect Kent's environment committee, said: "The fact that Coastal Oil and Gas has been forced to withdraw these applications because of a lack of information shows how little research they did on the hydrogeological conditions in the area. It is great news that they have withdrawn the applications, but we have to be mindful that they may try again in the future."

## Giant pylons 'threaten to blight' countryside surrounding historic city

By Marijke Cox

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SERIOUS concerns have been raised over plans to build a new high voltage power connection between Richborough and Canterbury.

It follows the announcement by National Grid on Thursday outlining its preferred route for new overhead lines in the area.

The Richborough Connection will link with the planned Nemo scheme, a separate project which involves a new 1,000 megawatt electricity link between Belgium and the UK.

Up to 70 pylons could be built stretching from the sub-station in Broad Oak Road in Canterbury to another in Richborough, Sandwich, passing through Upstreet, Hersden, Chislet, Broad Oak and Sturry.

The 'north corridor' option was chosen over its 'south' equivalent, where no pylons currently exist.

National Grid said the option has the least environmental impact and at the same time provided the oppor-



**FEARS:** High voltage power connection set to be installed

tunity to remove the existing UK Power Networks pylons.

The decision follows a six-week public consultation.

But MP for Canterbury and Whitstable, Julian Brazier, said while the

north option was not as destructive as the south route, he still had "serious concerns".

He said: "The existing pylons are 26 metres high, whereas the new ones are to be either 35 or 50 metres high.

"Even a 35 metre pylon would be the same height as the subsidiary towers on Canterbury Cathedral.

"While this proposal rules out the very worst options, it still threatens to blight significant rural areas of our heritage city."

Project manager Steve Self said: "We'll keep talking to local people as we develop our plans with more information events and online updates."

Jamie Weir, spokesman at Protect Kent, the county's branch of Campaign to Protect Rural England, instead called for pylons to be put underground.

He said: "We believe National Grid should be investing in undergrounding all new transmission lines as many other European countries are now doing."

## Lions pinched from manor house found

A WOMAN has been arrested after two large ornate stone lions - worth an estimated £100,000 each and swiped from outside a manor house near Aylesford - were found by police.

The two statues were taken from outside a Grade II-listed manor house in the Royal British Legion Village on October 27.

Following an appeal, police received a tip-off which led them to recover two lions at a garage in East Malling on Monday.

A 57-year-old woman from East Malling was arrested on suspicion of theft and later bailed until December 18 when enquiries continue.

DC James Chichester said: "The lions have now been seized as evidence but we will be seeking to hand them back to the true owners when appropriate."

The lions, carved in the mid-19th century, had sat on plinths either side of the main entrance at the manor house. One depicts a lion killing a snake, the other is of a lioness with her cub.

## Dozens arrested in burglary crackdown

A MAJOR police swoop on a number of addresses in Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks and Tonbridge has seen at least 29 people arrested on suspicion of burglary.

What's more, the police say the number of arrests is set to rise as the force continues to execute Operation Castle - its crackdown on burglary in the county.

DCI Neil Parker, who heads the proactive investigation team in west Kent, said: "We will relentlessly target those people who seek to bring misery by breaking into people's homes and stealing from them."

"We have a dedicated workforce which successfully brings offenders to justice and tough terms of imprisonment are handed down by the courts."

"Many burglaries, whether domestic or business-related, are opportunistic and preventable so our message is, it only takes seconds to secure your property."

## Politicians win gongs at Spectator awards

A CLUTCH of the county's top politicians picked up gongs from London Mayor Boris Johnson this week when the Spectator magazine hosted its 27th Parliamentary of the Year awards at London's Savoy Hotel.

Sevenoaks MP Michael Fallon picked up Minister of the Year - selected for overseeing the sale of Royal Mail and his war on solar subsidies.

Meanwhile, Chatham's Tracey Crouch and Rochester's Mark Reckless both shared the Parliamentary of the Year award - which went jointly to the 15 MPs who voted against Prime Minister David Cameron's media regulations.

And there was also an award for Ukipp leader Nigel Farage. The MEP, who lives in Westerham, was named Insurgent of the Year for reminding "a universal irritant" to all political opponents.

Politician of the Year was home secretary Theresa May, while Labour leader Ed Miliband won Political Speech of the Year for his conference address.



# agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

## £47bn Boris-backed airport project launch

THE latest futuristic designs for a multi-billion pound airport hub in the Thames Estuary will be unveiled on Monday.

Situated off the coast of Whitstable and Herne Bay, the London Britannia Airport plans are being endorsed by London Mayor Boris Johnson and would see runways linked by high speed rail links to

the existing Ebbsfleet terminal, central London and a new terminal at Maidstone.

The scheme is being put forward by the Thames Estuary Research and Development Company (Testrad), which includes architects Gensler. It will cost £47bn to build over seven years - the majority of which would be funded by selling



off the sprawling Heathrow site in west London.

The scheme itself was revealed last year, and a full presentation will take place at the House of Lords on Monday.

## City chiefs set to rule on proposed tax bill hike

CITY councillors in Canterbury will meet on Thursday to decide on a host of options to help balance the books in the face of significant cuts from central government - and that is likely to include hiking council tax and car parking charges.

The council has to find a further £5.5m in savings. As a consequence, it is

looking at lifting council tax by two per cent and raising car parking by 20p per hour.

The tax increase would equate to around seven pence a week extra.

Others issues on the agenda include closing museums in Whitstable, Herne Bay and Canterbury during the winter months.

## ...also

### Support for rape victims

KENT Police will begin to use a new dedicated 24-hour sexual assault referral centre (SARC).

While not officially opening until next year, officers will be able to take victims there after an assault. Its location is kept hidden, but thought to be in Maidstone.

### More fire strike action

FIREFIGHTERS are to stage another walk-out next week - the latest stage of an on-going row over pensions.

The Fire Brigade Union has called its members out on strike action next Wednesday, November 13, between 10am and 2pm.

### Primary place race starts

THOUSANDS of families will start the application process to secure a primary or junior school place for their child at their preferred school.

Some 16,000 families are expected to sign up for a place to start school next September. See [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola).

### Armistice Day events

IN ADDITION to all the Remembrance Day events taking place this weekend, there will be services across the county on Monday to mark Armistice Day.

Gun salutes and wreath laying services will mark November 11 - the day the guns fell silent to mark the end of the Great War.

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- 11 Reg Chevrolet Spark 1.0i LS 5dr 30,878 miles £4,195
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- 12 Reg Kia Venga 1.4 2 EcoDynamics 5dr 33,780 miles £9,015
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- 60 Reg Nissan Note 1.6 Tekna 5dr Auto 10,977 miles £8,095
- 13 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi [110] Acenta 5dr 2,094 miles £14,645
- 11 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi [110] Tekna 5dr 13,787 miles £13,625
- 60 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi N-Tec 5dr 22,460 miles £11,465
- 60 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi Tekna 5dr 30,644 miles £12,755
- 12 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.6 [117] N-Tec 5dr 30,509 miles £12,545
- 62 Reg Nissan Qashqai 1.6 [117] N-Tec+ 5dr 14,438 miles £13,335
- 60 Reg Peugeot 207 1.6 HDi 92 Sport 5dr 20,244 miles £8,095
- 10 Reg Peugeot 308 1.6 HDi 110 S 5dr 23,233 miles £7,165

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# Rabies alarm: Ports on alert after kitten dies near Paris

Cat found with disease in town north west of French capital sparks fresh warnings, reports **Chris Murphy**

**C**HANNEL ports have been put on alert after a case of rabies was confirmed in northern France – with travellers warned to take extra precautions.

It was detected in a kitten on the outskirts of the French capital, Paris.

Rabies is a serious viral infection that targets the brain and nervous system. It can be passed by infected animals to humans and is almost always fatal unless treated very early.

It is passed by bites and scratches.

The cat, which died from the horrific disease, was just 218 miles from Dover.

It had been imported from Morocco, then ran away and spent time with two other families. It began displaying symptoms but died soon afterwards. The diagnosis was made then.

Although it arrived in France with a certificate of good health, its paperwork did not meet regulatory provisions, and an inquiry is under way to establish why.

Stray animals in the area are now being rounded up and those that may have been in contact with the infected cat will be put down.

Those that happen to have been vaccinated will be closely monitored for six months.

Kent has always been vulnerable to any outbreak of the disease on the Continent, given its transport links to Europe. France had been rabies free since 2010.

Ferry firm P&O warned its passengers to be extra cautious, saying: "We would urge all our customers to now be extra vigilant."

"We have got used to the near-Continent being free of rabies so this does come as a surprise."

"We ask our customers to report any untoward animal behaviour."

"We will monitor the situation and if necessary will advise passengers to be aware and take medical or veterinary advice if they think they or their pets have been affected."

Dr David Brown, director of the virus reference department for Public Health England, part of the Department for Health, said: "Those travelling to this area of France should avoid contact with wild and domestic animals."

"If they are licked, scratched or bitten by a wild or domestic animal they should wash the area thoroughly with soap and water and seek urgent medical advice either in France, or on their return from their GP or NHS Direct."

The kitten was found on October 25 in the town of Argenteuil, Val d'Oise, to the north west of Paris. The two-month-old black and tan animal died just three days later.

A spokesman for PHE added: "Public health officials are currently in the



**“If travellers are licked, scratched or bitten by a wild or domestic animal they should wash the area thoroughly with soap and water and seek urgent medical help”**

**Dr David Brown,**  
of Public Health England

process of identifying and risk assessing all who may have had contact with the kitten or its mother between October 8 and 28, and also to determine if any other animals were in contact or are affected.

"Anyone who has been bitten, licked or scratched by a kitten or cat in this area of France since October 8 is urged to seek medical advice."

It is possible to vaccinate animals and humans against rabies. Getting the jab is one of the major requirements in order for an animal to get a pet passport which entitles it to travel outside the UK and to re-enter.

This is rigorously checked upon arrival at French ports, with the paper-

work being cross-referenced to a chip embedded in the animals.

A Eurotunnel spokesman said: "We are part of the passport scheme. Animals are checked they have the correct inoculations and chips under their skins. This information is then checked against their passports."

"We will continue to do this in accordance to the guidance from Defra."

"They are particularly checked on the way back into the UK at Coquelles, where there is a big animal passport building."

"Every animal that goes through has to be checked, although blood tests are not done provided vaccinations are in date."

## THE SYMPTOMS

It can take a while for the symptoms to develop, but when they do, the condition is almost always fatal.

In humans, symptoms can include an irrational fear of water, aggressive behaviour, a high temperature and tingling and itchiness at the infection site.

Animals with the disease will have similar symptoms – although the fear of water is only apparent in humans.

If you are travelling in, or have recently visited, an area of the world with a high rate of rabies and are worried you or your child may have been infected, you should seek medical help immediately.

■ If you've been bitten: Wash the wound with soap and water under a running tap; use antiseptic or alcohol to clean it; leave the wound open; go to the nearest hospital and explain you have been bitten.

Rabies is almost non-existent in the UK, but you should seek immediate medical help if bitten by a bat.

■ There are an estimated 55,000 deaths from rabies each year worldwide. Most occur in the developing world.

As a result of strict UK quarantine laws, the UK has been rabies-free since the beginning of the 20th century, with the exception of a rabies-like virus in a single species of bat.

The last recorded case in the UK was in May 2012. The patient, who died, contracted the disease after being bitten by a dog in India.

Source: NHS Direct

## VACCINATION

This is recommended for those who are travelling to an area for one month or more where rabies is common in animals, and where there is no access to prompt medical care.

A course is usually three doses for full protection, given over 21 or 28 days, depending on which vaccine is used. The injections are into the arm.

Vaccination should be completed before departure to allow immunity to develop.

It is not done by the NHS, but by a GP or travel clinic, and can cost up to £150.

# Tears and smiles as hero looks back at a war on the front line

Sent to fight at just 21, Harry Garrett saw his best pal killed and scenes of intense horror – yet he kept smiling. Now 95, **Marijke Cox** meets a remarkable man

**A**S A young boy, Harry Garrett would sometimes sleep on the trams in London when his family had nowhere to stay for the night.

Moved to a Dr Barnardo's home for children, separated from his brother and sister, it was in these younger years he would develop what he proudly describes as a "hard back-bone".

"It made a man of me; it taught me religion, it taught me how to knit, darn and sew, and it taught me to behave myself. I was tough."

It was these early years, he says, which also helped make him the soldier he was to later become during the Second World War.

Now 95 and living in Sevenoaks, Mr Garrett, charming and with a mischievous glint in his eye, describes himself as a "true Brit", adding: "I've done it all and I'm proud of it."

A widower since 1981 when his beloved "duchess" Ethel died, he is a popular and well-known face in the district as president of the Sevenoaks branch of the Royal British Legion.

It was in 1938 when his military career would begin when he joined the Territorial Army "just for the excitement".

"We were the initial fighting force for a long time," he said.

In 1939, with the outbreak of hostilities imminent, Mr Garrett knew he was likely to be shipped off to fight – so he proposed to his sweetheart.

"She was over the moon and accepted my proposal," he said.

After receiving the blessing of her parents and buying a ring for £5.10, they walked to a church in Fleet Street.

"I held her hand and put on the ring and my happiness was fulfilled for life," he said.

But Mr Garrett, then 21, was soon to be parted from his darling wife, shipped to France when war was declared.

After a brief spell in hospital with pleurisy after arriving in Cherbourg, he returned to his fellow troops, which fought as part of the 5th Y Division, alongside his brother Ken and good friend Ebby Lee, digging gun pits and defences on the French and Belgian frontiers.

When the Germans attacked Holland and then Belgium, Mr Garrett and his unit were ordered to Brussels.

"We fought for five weeks," he said.

"We fought our way through Amiens and Arras and a very hard battle at Vimy Ridge.



"We held the Germans down by the Menin Gate but then we got orders to move to Dunkirk to evacuate. We were being bombed and shelled, it was a difficult time, but exciting too."

**C**haos, and with it confusion, reigned as the troops struggled with the superior force of the Germans.

"I got within 15 miles of Dunkirk and the sergeant said: 'Harry, get your gun out here, I want you to hold

guard and hold the three guns we've got' – they were only two pound tank guns, peashooters, and yet we were trying to shoot German tanks which had thick armour."

"He said if any tanks came through at night with guns pointed forward they were the enemy, with the guns pointed back they were the French, 'they're ours'."

"At about half past four in the morning I was on duty and I heard this rumble. I said 'tanks coming ser-

geant!' and all the teams got up.

"They were the biggest tanks of the war, with guns pointed forward so the sergeant shouted for us to fire."

"I fired my gun twice and hit the tank but it just bounced off."

"Then they opened up with their 75mm guns against us – we saw Heaven and Earth all in one."

"But suddenly, the fighting stopped. 'Ah monsieur, pardon, pardon, we thought you were the enemy'. It was the French tanks knocking us about."





Pictures: ADY KERRY



“The friendship of your soldier man, there is nothing to touch it – we would die for each other”

**Harry Garrett,**  
on brothers in arms

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“They killed and wounded 16 of our blokes. I got knocked out, my gun knocked down but I was alive, I was just shocked.”

Mr Garrett and his fellow men were wanted back in England and so they got ready to evacuate at Dunkirk.

Arriving just outside the French town they held a line, fighting the enemy, before being told to dump their guns and trucks and get to the beach.

“I dug a trench in the sand with my dear friend Ebby and brother Kenny.

Ebby was my right hand gunner, he was a marvellous guy. He was so loyal – I was in charge of the gun and he was my shooter. He was a man who you would die for and he would have died for me as well.”

As they waited to be evacuated, they realised resources had run to almost non-existent.

Faced with shelling and bombing, but with no food or water, a brave Mr Garrett went on the hunt, something he described as fun, despite the risk of

attack: “We had no water, no food, no nothing on the beach, so I went on the scrounge; I’ve always been a good scrounger, being a Londoner, and so I went out and took a rifle and near my dugout there was a warehouse.

“I shot the door open with my rifle – it was the only key I had – and what do you think we found there?”

“Hundreds of bottles of neat Jamaican rum, biscuits, Billy beef, Carnation milk, Norton and BSA motor-bikes. Nobody had been there and it had been shut for weeks and yet we were fighting all around that place.

“So I told Ebby to get some bottles. We filled up eight with rum, but it was solid rum, you had to dilute it. But what were we going to use for water? Then we saw the Carnation milk and that’s how we did it.

“I said to the men, now, no stupidity, no getting drunk.

“After a few swigs we were probably the bravest three on the beach!”

But they were still to make the journey across the Channel.

“We were on the last destroyer back to England. Dunkirk harbour was, well you just can’t understand, you couldn’t see or hear a thing, it was murder and maddening,” he said.

“We were bombed and shot at and shelled all the way over but we didn’t care at this point. Every time a plane came over, we would fire at it.

“I say this, thank God we were young men, thank God we had the ambition to do the job we were there to do, and we were very brave in the fact that we were fighting for Britain.

“Thank God Hitler decided to go to Russia instead of England. We wouldn’t be here today had he invaded England.

“We’d a good air force but you couldn’t stop them. They (the Germans) were like rats and fighting them was terrible.”

**T**hey had survived a five-week battle, been bombed, shelled and fought a German force which had superior weapons, but they were back on home soil

Posted to Staffordshire for three weeks, Mr Garrett then moved to Scotland to join the 51st Highland Division.

“The chief officer did something wonderful; he said we were going to be up there for quite a few months because we had no equipment yet and so if we were married we could bring our wives up – ‘but you’re still in the Army’ he said, ‘and you will be on parade at seven o’clock in the morning.’

“So I had six or seven months of heaven with my darling wife. I’m talking the days when people were truly in love. She fell pregnant. We had our first child.”

Then the orders came, the 51st Highland Division received their new guns and in 1942 they left for the desert in Egypt.

In the sweltering heat, Mr Garrett, now a sergeant, and the division made their way to Mena Camp at Alamein to be the second line of defence.

“I was at Mena by the pyramids. I could walk to them in 10 minutes but I never went over there. I saw them in the distance,” he said.

“The only time I’ve ever seen then properly was from the air when I went to Australia to see my son.

“I went to see the officer on the

“Blown up tanks, transporters and casualties were all over the desert. Land mines and anti-personnel mines were a hazard”

**Harry Garrett,**  
on the dangers of war

plane and I said I was at Mena, so he let me sit in the cockpit and see them from above, it was fantastic.”

Still only a young man, now 24, Mr Garrett was to again experience the full force of war, this time in north Africa. Although he described it as frightening, animatedly recalling his memories, he admits it was equally as exciting.

“One night I was in the middle of all this artillery, among 1,000 guns; you couldn’t talk, you were reverberating, you were shaking, you didn’t know what was happening.

“For the first few days the fighting was touch and go, but our superb Army, Royal Navy and the Desert Air Force let us advance.

“This was all very exciting and once the Royal Engineers had cleared the minefields we advanced all along our front. We were knocking the enemy for hell.”

But heartache was to come. Mr Garrett’s brother-in-arms, his beloved best friend Ebby, was to perish on the battlefield.

“The friendship of your soldier man, there is nothing to touch it – we would die for each other.

“When dear Ebby got hit at Alamein, it broke my heart.

“This bloody shell came over and six of us were blown away; concussed.

“Suddenly I hear Ebby say ‘Oh Harry, help me, there’s something on my chest’. I said ‘just a minute old mate, I can’t feel a thing, I can’t feel a thing’ – I remember saying that even now.

“I got up and looked over and his chest was okay. When I looked round his back though I saw the shell had blown a wound from his neck to his bottom, everything inside was outside.”

The young soldier shouted for a stretcher but there were too many casualties at the first aid post.

“I got poor Ebby and I wrapped him with this groundsheet. I said: ‘Put him on my back, I’m going through shellfire’.

“I’m not kidding you, there was shrapnel flying about but it didn’t matter, I didn’t even realise it was happening. I just wanted to help my friend.

“I got him down to the first aid post. He couldn’t feel any pain; the shock of that shell would have made him not feel anything. He died about an hour later.”

An emotional Mr Garrett said it still affects him as much today as it did then. Tears well in his eyes as we speak.

But on the battlefield there wasn’t time for tears.

“On the way back to my gun, I





heard a scream. I walked over and the sergeant, who was my other gunner on my other anti-tank gun, had just been hit in the head. He died while I was there."

But it was back to his gun and on with the fighting.

"I prayed all the time for help and it was given to me, thank God.

"When the battle was finished we were all badly shaken by our loss of friends, but that is war."

After the tragedies of Alamein, the fighting continued with chaos everywhere: "Blown up tanks, transporters and casualties were all over the desert. Land mines and anti-personnel mines were a great hazard."

But despite the tragedies, Mr Garrett admitted he enjoyed the war "because I knew I had an ambition to do what I did".

"I felt absolutely, tremendously proud of my country," he explains, "I think the good Lord was in my mind all day.

"I can't tell you how many times I prayed and I still do to this day, every day, and it helps me through and helps me understand things more."

It took seven months, Mr Garrett said, to travel the 2,000 miles from Alamein to Port Tunis.

"We started pushing the Germans up; it was fantastic," he said.

Off the battlefield, the veteran said he had some truly wonderful experiences with his comrades.

"There were four of us, called the four musketeers. We were the tough guys, four sergeants and we were absolutely fantastic together.

"We drank together, we fought together and we had a good time together and it really was amazing to me we kept so close.

"They were great men. It's so long ago now when you think about it."

He added: "I had a wonderful war, a very frightening war and a very enjoyable war because our aim was to knock out the Germans, which we did in the end."

With the heartache of the bloodshed witnessed by Mr Garrett, there was, however, also some happiness.

"One day I was told the colonel wanted to see me. He said we'd got a unit stuck in the hills in north Africa and they'd been there for about three days.

"They'd been on this mountain being shot at all day and night by the Germans, you see. They had no cover.

"The colonel said he wanted me and my unit to go in and get them. 'The reason I asked you,' he said, 'is because your brother's there'.

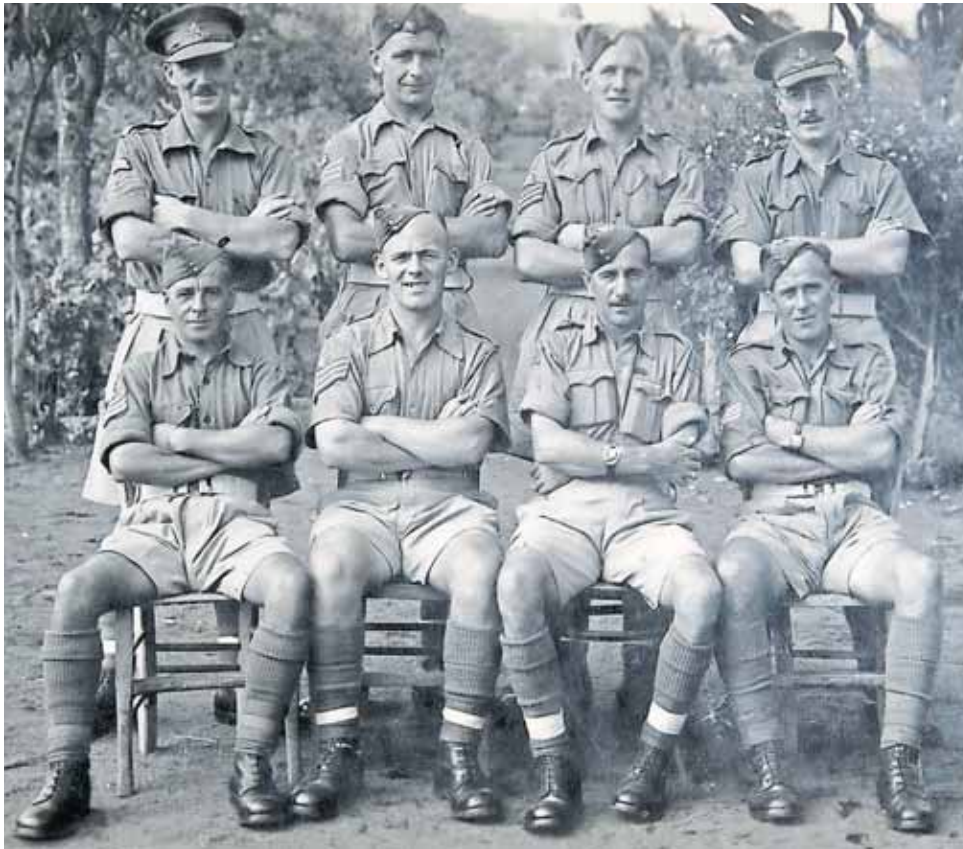
"I said there's only one option, I needed some troops in case we had to fight.

"So away I went and I got there and the Germans had gone. I said to my brother, come on mate, let's go back."

Brave in the face of adversity, Mr Garrett found himself in some scrapes during his time in the desert.

During a particularly bad sandstorm, he and his troop of 66 gunners stopped for the night only to wake in the morning to find they were in the middle of a minefield.

"I told my troop to get their bayo-



**HERO:** Harry Garrett through the ages, second right of the back row (top), right is from around October 17, 1939

nets out and dig round and turn the truck over and pull the gun through.

"We got through the gate - I just thought thank God for that.

"There were four Royal Engineers up at the end and they said to me: 'What's the matter Sarg?'.

"I told them we'd been stuck in that bloody minefield all night. You needn't have worried, they said, it was a dummy one!"

Another day out in the desert, Mr Garrett came across a broken down van, which turned out to belong to a British troop under the command of

his brother-in-law.

"That was a great story. I'd never met him. I married his sister in England. What a thing to come across. To see this broken van in the desert and the men know my brother-in-law."

Mr Garrett's division was on a winning streak and, with the exception of when the RAF accidentally bombed their headquarters in north Africa (luckily, nobody was killed, he said), they were "thrashing" the enemy.

"All the way up we were so thrilled at the fact we were on the winning side, the Eighth Army - as everyone

knew us in those days - was the proudest army in England because we were losing everything until then, "But the Eighth Army had done it alright and we were very proud."

The Eighth Army was one of the best-known formations of the British Army in the conflict, fighting in the north African and Italian campaigns.

Mr Garrett continued in the military, after Hitler was defeated, until the end of 1945, when he was discharged as medically unfit for service due to a burst ulcer.

But with a "smashing wife and four

**“I had a wonderful war, a frightening war and an enjoyable war because our aim was to knock out the Germans, which we did in the end”**

**Harry Garrett,**  
on victory

lovely children" his life was, he says, complete.

Picking up where he left off before the war, he worked in the millinery trade: "I was a millinery traveller - ladies' hats is what I did for 45 years, travelling all over the country.

"I was a gentleman of the road, not a salesman," he pointed out.

His wife died in 1981, but he found solace through the Sevenoaks branch of the Royal British Legion.

Attending parades all over the country and, in previous years, in France and Belgium, Mr Garrett became a popular face in Kent and further afield.

And despite reaching the ripe old age of 95, he has been tirelessly working on this year's poppy appeal, spending hours at supermarkets collecting money and selling poppies.

Over the years, Mr Garrett, who is also the county's vice-president for the RBL, has raised tens of thousands of pounds.

He has also spent much time in schools teaching children about the war so the sacrifices of those brave soldiers, enlisted and shipped abroad to fight, are not forgotten.

"A dear friend of mine who has just retired asked me to do a talk at a school. 'Give us half an hour', he said.

"So after an hour and half of me talking he says: 'I think it's a good idea that you stop now and let's get back to lessons, after all, that's what school's for.

"He turned to the class and asked if there were any questions.

"A hand shoots up: 'Mr Garrett, Did you kill anybody?'.

"I said: 'If Mr Garrett did, the good Lord would forgive him. I'm not proud of the things I did, but obviously war is war and you cannot decide what is to be done'.

"The child said: 'Yeah I know that, but how many did you kill?'.

"I told him that a good soldier doesn't want to tell you what he did. I can tell you that we were in action fighting, but the good Lord knows what he did or what he didn't do and that's it."

Since working for the Royal British Legion and the poppy appeal, Mr Garrett has collected more than £40,000.

But the most important message, he says, is to remember. Remember the young men taken away from their families and onto the battlefields and to the atrocities of war.

For him, however, the true friends he made, the love of his beloved Ethel and the pride he feels makes him look back fondly on a life filled with hardships but, above all, bravery.





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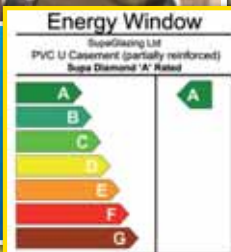
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# The poetry of

Siegfried Sassoon, the dreamer who enlisted to

**I**T TOOK an exceptionally brave man to fight on the battlefields of the First World War.

It took, perhaps, an even braver one to then challenge those quite literally calling the shots.

But through his compassionate, and sometimes shocking poetry, that's exactly what Siegfried Sassoon did.

Born in Matfield, a small village close to Tunbridge Wells, and raised in his family's neo gothic mansion, he was schooled at the New Beacon Prep School in Sevenoaks.

A keen cricketer, with aspirations to play for Kent, he was good friends and neighbours with Kent skipper Frank Marchant and would find himself playing alongside a young Arthur Conan Doyle, who lived in nearby Crowborough.

He would go on to become a decorated soldier and an eminent war poet.

Like so many, he would perform remarkable acts of bravery and heroism but be shaken by the futility of conflict and enormous loss of life.

It was an internal struggle which would rage not just in his mind but through the pages of his work - work which captured both the valour and tragedy of war.

On the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, Sassoon enlisted as a cavalry trooper in the Sussex Yeomanry and in May 1915 became an officer in the Royal Fusiliers, posted to the Western Front in France.

He was known to be "recklessly brave" and was awarded a Military Cross for carrying a wounded corporal back to British lines under heavy fire.

But his attitude towards war was changing; he believed the British High Command was dragging out the war for its own ends.

After being wounded and sent back to England in 1917, Sassoon - already a well-known poet - made a public statement against what he believed were unjust motives by his superiors.

**“When he saw men going over the top at the Somme, mown down by machine guns, he became angry about war. He could've been killed for speaking out”**

**Dr Jean Moorcroft Wilson,**  
biographer of the poet

His growing disillusionment was reflected in his poetry, and meetings with prominent pacifists, including Bertrand Russell, only went to strengthen his views which, coming from a decorated war hero, caused great controversy.

At risk of being executed, his friends prevented him from being court-martialed by convincing authorities he had shell shock and he was sent to Craiglockhart War Hospital in Edinburgh. It was here that he met, and was influenced by, renowned war poet Wilfred Owen. Mr Owen would not see the end of the war - he was killed in battle in France just a week before a cease fire was implemented.

But Sassoon was to return to the battlefield. Biographer Dr Jean Moorcroft Wilson, who has just released her latest book Siegfried Sassoon: Soldier, Poet, Lover, Friend, discovered some of his unpublished poems in trench diaries from 1916 at Cambridge.

Despite Sassoon already being disillusioned by the war, his attitude was surprising.

"They showed he wasn't quite sure for a long time about war; he was going backwards and forwards," said Dr Moorcroft Wilson.

"One of the poems shows that when he was writing anti-war poems, he was also writing about valour and courage.

"But when he saw soldiers going over the top at the Battle of the Somme [a four-month battle in which more than one million men were killed or injured], mown down by machine guns, he became angry about war.

"He was very brave; he could have been killed for speaking out.

"He was very much hushed up. All his friends were terrified authorities would court-martial him and he would be killed. Strings were pulled to get him declared insane instead.

"But opinion began to change in 1917 after the Battle of Arras."

**T**he battle around the town of Arras in northern France was a particularly bloody one with an estimated 150,000 British casualties for barely any strategic gain.

Adds the author: "Everybody thought Arras was a terrible thing. Public opinion started to change, soldiers became more brave - they were no longer going to just accept orders from government.

"Sassoon became much more popular; his poetry had muted respect and became admired.

"I think he changed attitudes towards war. He was an icon for the 20th century and that has carried on. Most writers just write, but Sassoon was rare; he fought.

"He showed people the value of courage and that poetry can be something very effective.

"There is nothing more effective than blistering satire; someone pleased they've lost their leg







# one man's stand against war

fight, became a powerful voice against the Great War. **Marijke Cox** finds out more about the brave poet

because they don't have to go back to war.

"People still think of him as a tremendous voice. He thought afterwards of himself as a booby-trapped idealist."

But while much is made of the soldier and poet, his personal life has gauged much interest over the years too.

Sassoon was homosexual at a time when it was far from accepted. Ironically, the year he died, 1967, male homosexuality between consenting adults was decriminalised as a result of the Wolfenden Report.

"People knew he was homosexual," said Dr Moorcroft Wilson. "He moved in creative circles with other writers and people were sympathetic of it."

He had a love affair with the "extraordinary creature" and aristocrat Stephen Tennant and composer Ivor Novello.

So it was to come as a shock to some when Sassoon married, aged 47. He and his wife, Hester Gatty, had a son, George.

Adds Dr Moorcroft Wilson: "He really was in a vulnerable state when he met Hester Gatty. She was small and slim, like Stephen Tennant.

"They met at a fancy dress pageant and she pursued him. He may have still been thinking



**CONFLICTED:** From left, Siegfried Sassoon; the battle of Arras, the tragedy of which had such a powerful impact on the general public and made his writing more popular; the biography of the poet

PAGE 16 »

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about Stephen Tennant but she found out where he was staying and went hurrying after him and he asked her to dinner.

"At first it was fun and he loved her deeply; it was a relief for him to be seen as a respectable member of society.

"But I met Sassoon's nephew and he said when his Aunt Hester went to bed, Sassoon would sit at his writing table and work into the middle of the night. She would beg him to come to bed but he wanted to write.

"How can you have a marriage when you're missing going to bed together, getting up together, having breakfast? Those rituals of marriage are so important.

"She was a difficult woman, but probably difficult because of Sassoon."

The couple eventually split and he was later to become, surprisingly, a Roman Catholic.

Born to a Jewish father and Anglican mother, Sassoon attended church in Brenchley, near Tunbridge Wells, as a child.

"I suppose he was always dreamy but also spiritual," said Dr Moorcroft Wilson. "He lost his faith in Anglicanism in the First World War.

"It eventually came to that time in his life; he was lonely. He was in the homosexual world, his son had gone away to school, his wife had gone, his friends were doing their own thing.

"He had nothing to sustain him. He



**BRAVE:** Poet Siegfried Sassoon

couldn't write much anymore.

"He was written to by a wonderful nun; she was tiny and Irish and tremendously gay, and his conversion went from there."

Dr Moorcroft Wilson said growing up Sassoon had been an enthusiastic cricketer, playing for the Bluemantles in Tunbridge Wells.

"He went to school at a much later age, when he was 12," she said. "His father had left his mother before Sassoon was five. It really threw her and that was probably why she kept her boys at home. He had run off with her best friend and she was devastated."

Sassoon passed the exam for Marlborough College and went onto Cambridge, where he left without a degree.

His biographer explains: "His guardian and uncle Hamo Thornycroft decided Sassoon should study law but the young man was dreamy and poetic and started writing poetry early.

"He would instead spend his time punting on the river and writing poetry. He ended up changing his degree to medieval history."

Dr Moorcroft Wilson said she has been fortunate to see much of Sassoon's work, but it has not always been easy.

She explains: "I once had to jump on a plane to New York after being told about some letters from Sassoon to Stephen Tennant.

"I was just about going to press with the book and we heard about this new material and I couldn't do the book without it; I had to leave the next day."

With the latest book, the author had almost finished when a huge influx of material went on sale at Bonhams and she had to rush to take a look and scribble down details.

"He made a great name for himself, even at the start, so people have always held onto his work."

He published a series of volumes with poems inspired by the war: *The Old Huntsman* (1917); *Counter-Attack* and *Other Poems* (1918); and *Picture-Show* (1919).

Siegfried Sassoon died in 1967 after suffering from stomach cancer, one week before his 81st birthday. He is buried in a simple grave in a churchyard in Somerset.

## SPORTSMEN WHO FELL IN GREAT WAR



### Colin Blythe

Born in Deptford, cricketer Blythe was considered one of the finest spinners of his generation, playing for Kent between 1899 and 1914. He claimed 100 wickets in all but two seasons. He also played 19 Tests for England.

He was killed, aged 38, on November 8, 1917, by random shell fire, near Passchendaele. He is buried in Belgium.

### George Pollock-Hodsoll

Raised in Maidstone, Pollock-Hodsoll was a keen sportsman, playing for legendary football team Corinthians prior to the war – a team which used to once produce much of the England national team. He was also a keen athlete.

He was killed in November

1914, aged 39, and is listed on the Menin Gate memorial.

### David Jennings

Jennings played 35 matches for Kent County Cricket Club during a career which stretched from 1909 to 1914 and lived in Tunbridge Wells.

He died in August 1918 – just three months before the end of the conflict. He was 29. He is buried at the Marlborough Old Cemetery in Wiltshire.

### Robert Pillman

After growing up in Sidcup and playing rugby for Blackheath, Pillman made it into the England team, winning a cap the year before war broke out when he played France in 1914.

He was killed two years later in Belgium. He was just 23.

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# The battle to build a new life

**Joe Bill** discovers how injured and retired soldiers are finding their feet again at a remarkable village

**F**ROM the outside it could be any leafy housing estate in Kent. Just off the A20 at Aylesford, near Maidstone, there are houses, shops, trees and the pitter patter of folk going about their business.

But a closer look reveals a remarkable self-sustained, close-knit community – and one heavily staffed by those with the most remarkable stories to tell.

Because this is the Royal British Legion Village and it plays a vital role in the readjustment to society of many of the injured servicemen and women who have served in recent conflicts.

First founded in 1919, following the Great War, it began life as a modest farming community, established to help those injured in the war, as they received treatment at the nearby Preston Hall hospital.

Today, it provides nursing homes, sheltered housing and independent living units for veterans – as well as providing employment and social activities for the injured.

Attached to the village is busy, profitable industry too. Operated via legion spin-off, the Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI), the factory is a hive of activity.

It not only produces road and public signs used throughout Kent and across the UK, but also is used by the firm which creates the millions of poppies worn with such pride at this time of year.

It may be a charity, but its aim is



**FIXING LIVES:** Clockwise from the top: Kenny Kendrick; Julie works on a traffic island sign; RBLI's Geoff Streetley

simple – to make money to help fund its work as it look to ease the way back to normality for those used to life on the frontline.

For some, the road from Afghanistan or Iraq to Aylesford can be swift and traumatic.

For soldiers forced to retire from their chosen career, adjusting to civil street is never easy.

Many have minimal qualifications, no place to call home and no idea of how to find a new job.

Coupled with sometimes horrific and debilitating injuries – the life of a discharged soldier is daunting one.

Geoff Streetley is the head of the commercial operation at RBLI.

Showing us around the site this week, he explained: "The difference between the Royal British Legion and the RBLI is that the legion is a donation-led organisation.

"So you will see people this time of year, selling poppies.

"And whatever you put in the tin goes to the Royal British Legion.

"We are completely separate.

"Everything we do is to make surplus as a charity by trading. So we make things, sell them, and create the surplus.

Pictures: ADY KERRY



**T**he factory, run by the RBLI, employs 143 staff with military backgrounds as well as others who have impairments and have found it difficult get a job elsewhere.

Awarded social enterprise status in 2010, its ability to compete has seen it secure the contract to produce Kent County Council's road signs and bollards, as well as 80 per cent of the trackside signage for Network Rail and other major rail-related companies. The aluminum is cut in-house and a £250,000 investment has also allowed the factory to purchase a state-of-the-art printer which pastes the signs onto reflective material.

It's an impressive operation.

But the most impressive aspect is those who work there.

One member of the factory team is ex-serviceman Kenny Kendrick. Now a production supervisor, the 49-year-old served his country for 25 years.

As a Royal Engineer, trained in Chatham, the staff sergeant developed arthritic knees as he cleared mines and built bridges during time in the field which included the Falklands, Northern Ireland, Bosnia and the first Gulf War.

The decorated veteran joined up aged 16 and found it tough when he eventually had to retire.

He said: "I came out and tried a few jobs. But my family broke up – which happens to a lot of soldiers. Partners can't cope with you being at home

"But instead of paying shareholders, the money we make is ploughed back into our beneficiaries."

Originally the site, which sits outside the Grade-I listed Preston Hall, was set up as a sanatorium for soldiers coming back from the First World War with tuberculosis.

Explains Mr Streetley: "In those days, the cure for TB was fresh air, so they built the first bungalows with verandas so people could sit outside."

Since then more than 70 houses have been built on the 70-acre site as well as a care home and rehabilitation centre.





when you have spent so long away.

"You're looking for a new profession but you're a disabled soldier so it's very difficult to get work. I went into a real bad place. The hardest step is to come out of it and find yourself again."

Mr Kendrick was put in contact with the RBLI's LifeWorks course, which is run from the Aylesford site. It helps to prepare ex-servicemen to get back into work and civilian life.

"The difficult thing is to put down on paper what you have done in the Army. I have budgeted £10 million of equipment, and managed my construction team. But I can't prove it."

"The guys here tried to get some reality back into my life. They told me 'you're not worthless, you're not just an Army number. You have done a lot and you are worth something'."

"Working here has got me back into a good way. I feel confident now and I enjoy coming to work. It has made me feel better than being in a flat where I was on my own with a blow up bed, drinking. I was up to 19 stone and nearly went over the edge, but this has brought me back."

Adds Geoff Streetley: "About 16,000 soldiers transition out of the Army every year as part of attrition."

"Some suggest up to 14 per cent of the prison population are ex-military. So something goes wrong sometimes when people come out of the services. We are here to help."

"One success is Darwa, a Gurkha who lost his hearing in an attack in

Afghanistan. He had nowhere to live.

"We put him in temporary accommodation, got him a job and got him stable. But his real passion was web design. So we found a course, got him accredited, and now he has returned to Nepal and has his own business."

"He served our country, didn't have permission to stay so we got him permission and got him some cash by working in the factory and got him started so he has gone home."

The factory also has its own working saw mill where employees make pallets for delivery companies. They also make kindling.

It's recently won a contract with Dart Valley Foods where workers paste labels onto jars of jams, pickles and chutneys before packaging and boxing them to be sold.

**E**xplains Mr Streetley: "When you have people with mental impairments, they want to sit in the same place, do the same thing in a stable environment with some camaraderie. So this work is great for them."

"Some 67 per cent of the factory staff have an impairment. But we are not an institution. We do get individual grants for some of our impaired staff from the Government but that will disappear by 2015. That's why everything we do has to be commercial, because we don't have a subsidy and we need to make the surplus."

The LifeWorks team at the village operates a five-day residential course aimed at getting ex-service personnel back into work.

Occupational psychologist Sharon

**MEN AT WORK:** Employees of RBLI label up jars and make pallets



Patmore leads the course: "There are essentially three components."

"Vocation assessment where we look to identify which type of work a person is suited to and what they can cope with. There is also employability; writing CVs, interviews and job searching. Thirdly there is the development of confidence and self esteem."

"They come out with a clear direction on what they are going to do next and how they are going to do it."

"What we have to remember is that these people have had some significant disadvantages. We have people who have some quite significant injuries or disabilities or their life has been difficult and they have not received the support they should have."

The course, which runs three times a month, receives applications from all levels of the forces, from officers to the lower ranks and from service personnel who have been discharged for

just months or a number of years

Mr Streetley added: "They start the week not having a mission in life, they come out knowing what they are good at."

"We are also trying to help employers understand what ex-servicemen are good at and what they aren't. They are not good at free rein. Because all their career they are told what to do, where and how. What they are good at is turning up on

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time, shaven and ready to work hard."

The RBLI village is made up of three components – the factory and commercial side, the care and welfare division and the property services.

Adds Mr Streetley: "Our chief executive, Steve Sherry, talks about us as an airfield. People fly in, they find the right hangar. Whether it is care and welfare, accommodation, work or just transition, and when they are ready to take off, they go again."

A key component is getting ex-servicemen used to the idea of being a civilian again. One of the facilities is the Mountbatten Pavilion; like a university accommodation block, it has 27 rooms offering a place to stay in time of need.

They cater for both injured and able-bodied veterans, offering three meals a day and help getting back to a normal life. All for £45-a-week.

Welfare support officer Malcolm

Sears and his team are charged with getting the soldiers back to civilian life: "It's a big shock to a young soldier to have your whole life and career cut short through no fault of your own."

"We try and limit their stay to six to nine months. That gives us time to get everything in place, helping them find work or with benefits or pensions."

The service is also used for the repatriation of ex-veterans, many of whom are coming from areas like

Zimbabwe, where it grows ever more dangerous for them to live.

"With the younger ones, we try and feed them back into the RBLI factory to get them working again but looking for the long term too. Everything is to try and make their life as civilian as smooth as possible."

A third component of the village is the on-site care home, Gavin Astor House, a 50-room specialist facility for those with a physical disability; it includes a rehabilitation centre.

Head of care and welfare is Linda Alder. She explains how the home is currently being used by a 22-year-old former soldier recovering from injuries sustained while in the service, as well as providing end of life care for elderly ex-servicemen.

She said: "We specialise in physical disabilities but we have a mixture of conditions. We have had people who have developed multiple sclerosis and we have a guy who has injuries having stood on a land mine. We are looking after very complex needs."

The village also provides more permanent assisted living in Queen Elizabeth Court. There are 40-flats with communal areas for tenants to use and they are particularly aimed at ex-service people or their spouses.

One of those is 87-year-old Joan Thomas, who moved to the area from London to be closer to her family.

She said: "My husband fought during the Second World War. I was living in London until last year but one of my daughters lives in East Malling and my grandson in Ditton."

"My husband had died so we decid-

**“ They start the week not having a mission in life, they come out knowing what they are good at ”**

**Geoff Streetley,**  
on helping ex-soldiers into work

ed I would move down. I didn't want to live with them and upset their lives so I came here. It is nice to be close."

The RBLI work in conjunction with a number of the 200 ex-service charities operating around the UK. And they have more tenants in their 70 houses looking to get back to the life of a civilian after discharge.

Mr Streetley explained charities refer people to them as a place to stay and there is always a waiting list for the care home and houses.

The RBLI lease a factory at the village site to manufacturing company the Poppy Factory, which create the plastic garments and wreaths. More than £20m of poppies and wreaths will be boxed and sent across the world from the Aylesford and Richmond branches in time for Remembrance Sunday this weekend.

So spare a moment to pay tribute to those who live and work here – and perhaps more importantly, the support network around them, ensuring our heroes are treated with dignity and respect in their time of need.

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# Guide to county's services

Thousands will take to the streets of towns and villages across the county this weekend to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defending our nation. Remembrance Day services will take place in and around Kent's many war memorials and at places of worship. They allow everyone to devote just a few moments to pay tribute to those who fought and lost their lives. Most services will take place at 11am and include a two-minute silence. Use our guide to find one of the bigger events near you.

## ASHFORD

The mayor and others will proceed from the parish rooms in The Churchyard to the Memorial Gardens for the wreath laying ceremony, which includes the two minute silence.

The mayor will then take the salute of the cadets outside M&S in the upper High Street. At 11.30am, there is the normal service at St Mary's.

## CANTERBURY

Just after 10am, there will be a procession attended by the Lord Mayor and other dignitaries. A service begins at 10.50am at the cathedral. There will also be ceremonies at Herne Bay and Whitstable's memorials.

## DARTFORD

The town's parade and service starts

at 10.45am with a procession from Dartford Museum to the war memorial. The service, which includes wreath laying and a two minute silence, then follows. MP Gareth Johnson will be among those attending.

## DOVER

Following the re-dedication of the war memorial earlier this year, the new plaque, dedicated to those who died in all conflicts, will serve as a reminder of those who gave their lives.

The parade assembles at Marks and Spencer in Biggin Street at 10.45am and heads to the memorial in front of the town council offices for a service.

## GRAVESEND

There is a service at the war memorial at the Windmill Gardens. The pa-

rade starts at 10.45am from the Veterans' Hall in Clarence Place.

The mayor, Derek Sales, and deputy leader Jacques Arnold, plus local MP Adam Holloway will attend.

## MAIDSTONE

Dignitaries will take part in a parade of more than 500 people, beginning at 10.30am in Week Street, heading along the High Street, past the Town Hall and over to the memorial on The Broadway.

After the service, the parade will return to Maidstone, where the Mayor, Lt Col Ed Robinson and Gurkha Major Ek Gurung from the Queens' Gurkha Engineers, will take the salute at the Town Hall at 11.25am.

Those in attendance will include KCC leader Paul Carter.

## MEDWAY

The Remembrance Day salute and march past in Rochester High Street will draw to a close the memorial services taking place at different places across the towns.

Josie Iles, the Mayor of Medway, said: "It's very important that we remember those who gave their lives and obviously the families who have been left behind."

"What the Royal British Legion do is very commendable and I always support them. It's important to keep it going, there is a need for it with current conflicts like Afghanistan."

On Sunday at 9am, there will be a naval service at the war memorial in Great Lines, Gillingham.

At 9.55am, at the Black Lion War

Memorial, there will be a wreath laying ceremony followed by a procession to St Mark's Church for a service of remembrance.

At 10.15am, in St Margaret's Church and at the Rainham War Memorial, a service and wreath laying ceremony will take place. Half an hour later, at Victoria Gardens, Chatham, there will be similar events.

Following this, at 10.40am, at Rochester Cathedral, the mayor, council leader and its chief executive and members, will walk from the Guildhall Museum to the cathedral for a service, followed by a wreath laying ceremony at Rochester war memorial.

A salute and march past will take place in the High Street (at the precinct near the City Wall Wine Bar).

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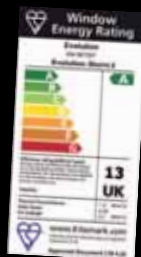
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And finally, at 11am, at Brompton war memorial, Wood Street, there is to be a further wreath laying.

#### SEVENOAKS

Taking place at the Vine war memorial in Dartford Road, starting at 10.50am. Wreaths will be laid by more than 30 local organisations.

VIPs intending to attend include local MP Michael Fallon; Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Kent Col Rtd Godfrey

Linnett TD DL; council chairman Alan Pett; Mayor and Mayoress Roderick and Mary Hogarth along with Royal British Legion representatives.

In Swanley, a parade assembles behind the Post Office at 2.20pm before marching through the town into St Mary's Church for wreath laying at the memorial 20 minutes later.

#### SHEPWAY

In Folkestone, there is a service at the

war memorial in West Terrace, attended by youth organisations, veterans and representatives of local emergency and armed services. In Dymchurch there is a parade and service at St Peter and St Paul Church; in Elham, the parade is from St Mary the Virgin Church to High Street War Memorial and Saltwood has a wreath laying at the village green; Hythe and Lydd have similar events.

#### SWALE

The service of remembrance and wreath laying is at the war memorial in Central Avenue, Sittingbourne.

In Faversham, it takes place at the memorial in Stone Street. In Sheerness the service is at the cenotaph.

#### THANET

The Margate service leaves the council offices at 10.40am, parading to the war memorial in Trinity Square for

an 11am wreath laying, accompanied by veterans and standard bearers.

Ramsgate's parade takes place in Elms Avenue at 10.35am and culminates at a service at St George's Church at 10.50am.

Thanet North MP Sir Roger Gale will be at the Margate event, while Thanet South's Laura Sandys will be attending the ceremony in Sandwich which starts at 10.30am at the Guildhall.

#### TONBRIDGE

The Mayor and Mayoress of Tonbridge and Malling, Howard and Jane Rogers will take part in the service and wreath-laying in the Memorial Gardens at Bradford Street.

This starts at 10.45am and will be followed by the parade which will take its usual route past the town memorial at the Watagate and dismiss in front of Tonbridge Castle.

In West Malling, events will start at 2pm with the Mayor and Mayoress taking the salute by the pump in the High Street at 2.10pm.

#### TUNBRIDGE WELLS

At 10.45am, a service of remembrance, thanksgiving and dedication will be at the war memorial in Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells, when wreaths will be laid by the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Viscount De L'Isle MBE as well as local MP Greg Clark and senior town officials.

The deputy mayor and deputy mayoress, accompanied by the Royal British Legion chairman and president, will then go to Tunbridge Wells Borough Cemetery to lay wreaths.



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**TRAGEDY:** Firefighters tackle the fire at Webbs  
Picture: MALCOLM DICKSON

# Anxious wait to see if historic building will rise from ashes

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

OWNERS of a shop at the centre of a fire which ripped through Tenterden's historic High Street this week say they will learn in the coming days whether the building can be saved.

The Grade II-listed, 16th century building, which housed kitchenware firm Webbs of Tenterden – a family business which has operated in the town for 100 years – went up in smoke on November 5.

The fire began on the ground floor before spreading through the roof space to neighbouring stores; the book shop Waterstones and Café Rouge.

All three were forced to close their doors to customers.

Webbs faces the prospect of its building having to be rebuilt as a consequence of the fire and the water used to bring the blaze under control.

Waterstones is also likely to remain shut, while Café Rouge was hoping to be back in business imminently.

But the blaze has had a profound impact on the close-knit Tenterden community – many of whom were on their way to firework parties, or were heading home from work, when the drama began. They could only stand and stare as fire crews attempted to limit the damage.

A major investigation into what caused it is now under way, but it is not believed to be arson.

Speaking to KoS this week, Graham Webb, who runs the three Webbs stores in the town alongside brother Nigel, admitted it would be months before the shop was open again for business, but said they were determined to save the building if possible.

He explained: "The alarm was raised at about 6.40pm on Tuesday evening so all the staff had gone home by then."

"By 7pm the fire brigade was out and the fire was extinguished by about 10.30pm but they were here until about 2am damping down."

"We are in a terrace of shops. Waterstones won't be able to open for the foreseeable. Café Rouge hopefully will be able to trade in the next few days. It has been very disruptive."

The kitchen shop, which sells cookware and utensils, complements their hardware and linen stores in the town.

A popular destination, the family store was very much seen as part of the fabric of a high street which continues to attract visitors from across the county and tourists from afar.

Adds Mr Webb: "The cause of the fire is still a mystery. We have forensic teams coming to take a look and there have been loss adjusters here, there and everywhere, as you can imagine."

"The various parties always want their own team to have a look so that will take place over the next few days. Then we have a surveyor coming to see if any of the building can be saved."

"Until he sees what's left, we are in a state of uncertainty. If ever there was a

state of limbo, we are in it at the moment. We don't know what the fire and then the water have done to the structure of the building."

"Ideally, we would like to save the building and reopen for business again. It is a 16th century building, which is part of the appeal and attraction. Normally, it's a lovely looking shop."

The shop had just started gearing up for its busiest time of the year – Christmas. It was well known for always having impressive festive window displays.

Now the firm will look to exploit space at its other stores in the town.

Mr Webb explained: "We are partly refitting the old hardware shop to bring in kitchen stock for the Christmas period. That will be over the next few days."

"With the weather closing in, it will be weeks before we know where we are, and months before the shop is open again. Because the building is attached both sides, it will be a huge job to bring it all down so we are trying to not even think about that yet."

"If you poke your head in, it looks structurally intact but I am not a surveyor. Fire, smoke and water are devastating to buildings. But we're a resilient family and hope to bounce back."

At its peak, more than 60 firefighters tackled the fire.

Area manager Stuart Skilton said: "The very old nature of the building, combined with the intricate design and layout of pitched roofs, voids and additional buildings at the rear, made it a demanding job."

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# Are tensions so high prison is set to erupt again?

Following last weekend's 'incident' at Maidstone's jail, talk of a 'toxic mix' of issues are fuelling fears of a repeat. **Chris Murphy** looks at just what happened and the resulting investigation

**W**HILE the exact cause of the disturbance at Maidstone Prison last weekend remains the subject of a full investigation, it has been revealed the 40 ringleaders have been moved to other jails.

But there remains concern of a "toxic mix" at the jail and tensions are still high amid fears of another incident.

Saturday's drama broke out at around 4pm but there are conflicting reports of exactly what happened next.

The Prison Officers' Association said at the time up to 180 inmates were involved and that staff had been forced to withdraw "in fear of their lives".

It is understood the incident was confined to the Thanet Wing of the prison with some reports suggesting it escalated so swiftly it had been pre-planned.

The Prison Service, however, said only 40 took part and that no injuries or serious damage was caused.

What is certain is that the incident has cast a spotlight on the prison which caters for foreign nationals either convicted of a crime or who are awaiting trial. At the end of September, the prison housed some 459 prisoners, with a capacity of 600.

Operation Tornado, as last Saturday's incident was called, was brought under control by 6.30pm, as riot teams entered the building to restore calm.

Those living nearby said they could hear shouts and surrounding streets were filled with emergency vehicles.

Now a major investigation is under way to establish exactly what sparked the problems, and who was involved.

It is thought a combination of cuts to staffing and changes to the regime of prisoners lies at the heart of the recent problems.

The findings of the investigation will not be finalised for several weeks, and a spokesman at the Ministry of Justice said it is likely to remain confidential.

But there are concerns the same problems could ignite again at the jail which, until earlier this year, also housed sex offenders.

Howard League for Penal Reform chief executive, Frances Crook, told KoS: "Maidstone is not like other prisons because it is all foreign nationals."

"I think all these foreign nationals being held together is a toxic mix, par-



**Staff are concerned about what's gone on... and, as a union, we're worried about the repercussions following on from what happened last weekend**

**Michael Rolfe,**  
of the Prison Officers' Association

ticularly when you have a staff there who are used to dealing with a completely different population.

"It used to be a settled prison with people who were in for a long time. So when you opened a cell you knew who was going to be there because you had seen them the day, and the year, before."

"So when you then put everyone together just because they are foreign nationals, you get a very volatile mixture of people who are awaiting deportation, who are awaiting trial; people who are already very fragile. To then expect the staff to cope with no extra training, no extra support in numbers, that is what's toxic."

The Prison Service, however, insisted they run a "safe and secure regime".

It also claimed staffing levels were "appropriate" and did not contribute.

Other concerns cited as possible contributing factors are a lack of training for staff and the language problems they encounter, with so many inmates from such a large number of countries.

What many see as the spark which ignited the powder keg, however, was a change in the prisoners' daily regime.

It came as a consequence of the introduction of the 'incentives and

earned privileges' scheme which saw prisoners gain access to certain TV channels, games and clothing by good behaviour.

A spokesman for the Prison Service said: "We are currently introducing reforms to the prison system that will provide better value for taxpayers while protecting the public and improving the chances of prisoners being rehabilitated."

Mark Reckless, Conservative MP for Rochester and Strood, sits on the home affairs select committee. He says the proposals were first suggested by those within the prison industry.

He said: "When the government had been looking at making savings in the Prison Service by privatising some prisons, the governors and Prison Officers' Association, I understand, came to the justice secretary with alternative methods of finding savings, one of which was making time out of the cells into one longer period, rather than more numerous, shorter periods."

It is believed this had been introduced in Maidstone just before the problems flared up.

Michael Rolfe, Prison Officers' Association representative for the south east area, said: "It's very disturbing."

"Staff are concerned about what's gone on and as a union we're worried about our members going into this establishment and the repercussions following on from Saturday."

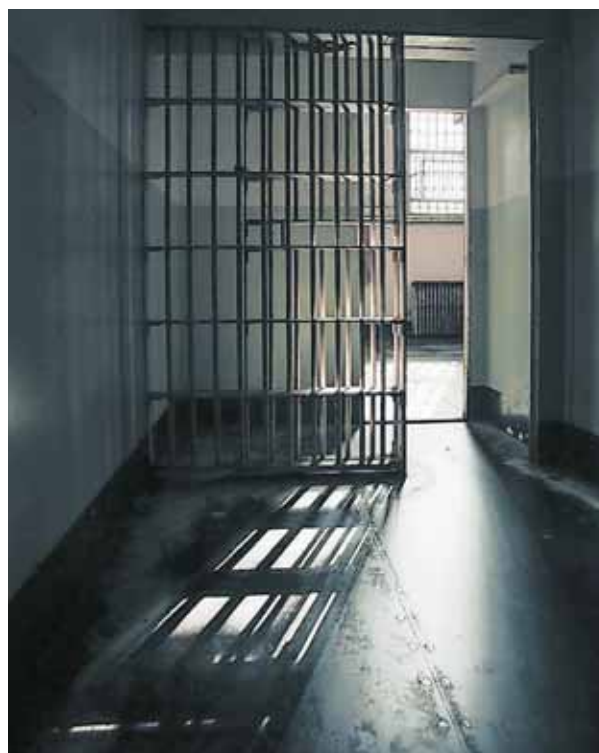
"From the information we've been receiving from our members, and from our committee at Maidstone, there is ongoing tension around the prison which may lead to further incidents."

"There's even a report that there may be up to 20 pool balls missing which could be used in an assault against members of staff."

A Prison Service spokesperson said: "We treat any act of violence or discipline in prison extremely seriously."

"All the ring leaders involved in the incident at HMP Maidstone on Saturday have been identified. They have been transferred to other prisons, put in segregation and are on a basic regime — this means they will be in prison uniform and will not have access to TVs or other privileges. They may also face further disciplinary measures."

"Professional intervention by highly trained prison staff meant the incident was resolved swiftly and without any injuries or loss of accommodation."



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# Power boost for estuary farm

The Kentish Flats windfarm is set for a £150m expansion off our coast, as **Chris Britcher** reports

**T**HEIR ability to generate sufficient power to justify the huge expense continues to enliven high levels of heated debate – and now another £150million is to be spent on building more wind turbines off our coast.

Bosses at Swedish energy firm Vattenfall finally gave the scheme the thumbs up this week for the Kentish Flats site which sits within sight of the Herne Bay and Whitstable coastline.

It follows approval granted by the Government earlier this year.

The enormous investment will see 15 new turbines constructed, with work getting under way in 2015. Whitstable harbour will be the main point of access during the construction process.

When complete and operational, they will generate enough energy to power a further 42,000 homes.

There are currently 30 of the giant turbines on the wind farm.

Canterbury-based Matthew Green is Vattenfall's project manager for the scheme. He said: "Vattenfall's decision to invest around £150m in the Kentish Flats extension is the final hurdle that needs to be cleared before construction can start in 2015.

"It's good to get that and I'm looking forward to leading the construc-



tion team over the next two and a half years. We will now complete a period of detailed engineering and planning for the construction phase in 2015.

"When we start installing the 15 wind turbines there will be a short period of intense construction activity through spring and summer 2015.

"Building a wind farm offshore is a significant and very challenging engineering exercise. There will be a number of big vessels 8km off the

Kent coast during construction and I hope local people will take a lot of interest in what we are doing."

The original Kentish Flats site has been operating since 2005.

Vattenfall is also the company behind the Thanet Offshore Wind Farm which sits 11km off the Thanet coast and is the third biggest in the world.

Kentish Flats generates some 90 mega watts at capacity, with the extension bringing that up to 139.5MW.

By way of comparison, nuclear power plants generate between 500 and 1,300MW, while large coal or gas stations generate around 400MW. The world's largest wind farm is the London Array in the mouth of the Thames Estuary between the Kent and Essex coasts. Fully operational, it is capable of generating 1,000MW.

Peter Wesslau, Vattenfall's UK country manager, said: "Vattenfall is

committed to developing wind power in the UK. Since May this year we have promised to invest, in total, more than £600m in two onshore wind power schemes and now offshore with the Kentish Flats extension. The UK is one of the most attractive places in Europe to invest in wind power and we are keen to continue building our business here."

Mark Dance, cabinet member for economic development at Kent County Council, said: "The decision to go ahead with the extension is great news for Kent.

"This major investment further strengthens the important role the county is playing in the growth of the offshore wind industry and will bring lasting benefits to our local economy and people."

The secretary of state for energy and climate change, Ed Davey, added: "I am delighted Vattenfall is going to proceed with the project.

"This is testament to the power of inward investment in the UK. Offshore wind is a major success story for the UK which brings economic benefit to our shores, supports thousands of skilled jobs and is an important contributor to our energy mix.

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**T**HE fight to save more threatened ancient woodland accelerates this week as campaigners call for public support to help defeat plans to “slaughter” 330 trees.

Campaigners in Allington are asking for people to write with objections to the local council in a bid to fight off a 500-house development on greenfield land just outside Maidstone.

The development would include an access road cutting through an area of ancient woodland, close to Maidstone Hospital.

Objectors only have until Thursday, November 14, to register their opposition before the council starts weighing up the options.

Earlier this year, the New Allington Action Group (NAAG) accused the council of ignoring public opinion after they gathered 2,000 signatures from residents opposing the developments which they say will “slaughter 330 trees” at Bluebell Wood.

The new development would be just a short distance from ancient Oaken Wood, which lost its three-year battle earlier this year to avoid being bulldozed as part of an extension to Hermitage Quarry.

Chairman of NAAG, Keith Young, says these developments can’t be allowed to continue.

He explained: “The planning around this area of Maidstone is so indiscriminate; it doesn’t seem to be coordinated. Any greenfield site can have a planning development put on it but no-one is questioning how it will all fit together.

“According to the developers, the breaching of the ancient woodlands by cutting a road through it is ‘necessary’ in order to gain access to a piece of land.

“It’s an important amenity for residents, dog walkers and anyone who wants to enjoy a weekend walk. If this land is built on people will have to travel to the other side of town to the only other bit of open land which is Mote Park. It’s an unwelcome development.”

Mr Young has gathered questionnaires from more than 200 local residents with 85 per cent voting against the plans.

The NAAG representative says the plans will have huge consequences for both the wildlife and infrastructure of the area, claiming there could be more than 1,000 extra vehicles a day on the area’s roads.

He said: “The infrastructure can’t absorb anymore. Roads will need to be redeveloped and changed. There will need to be significant changes to doctors and hospital availabilities and everything else that goes to make the community work.

“Also, the fact Oaken Wood up the road was allowed to go to quarrying means that all the other woodland around the area has to share the burden of the dispersal of wildlife.

“Any more woodland that is under threat will now not be able to absorb the displaced wildlife from Oaken. Winter hibernation places are disappearing rapidly.”

The land was made available by the council for housing expansion in March and developers, Croudace, put forward their ideas in April, inviting residents to a public exhibition to gather feedback.

And the company believes it has listened and compromised on a number of points.

A spokesman for Croudace said: “To meet its housing needs, Maid-



**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT:** Protestors are hoping more members of the public will write their objections to the housing development, outlined below right



# Call for help to halt road through ancient woods

Campaigners fear for fragmentation of ‘precious wildlife resource’, writes **Joe Bill**

stone Borough Council has allocated land east of Hermitage Lane for residential development. This was first done in 2000, and has been allocated again for 600 dwellings in March this year. Therefore the principle of its development is long established and recently re-confirmed.

“The intention has always been to develop the land by the hospital and the only safe way to access this is through a small part of the woodland. Subsequently the scheme has been reduced from 600 to 500 dwellings.”

Ancient woodland is classified as being land that has remained consistently wooded for at least 600 years, dating back to the time of the first detailed maps of the area. But Croudace also says its revised plans now include a reduced impact to the woodland east of Hermitage Lane.

A spokesman added: “Further advice from our team of ecologists, landscape architects, arboriculturists and highway engineers was sought and the proposals regarding the road through the woodland have changed to reduce its impact.

“The new route removes less than one percent of the woodland in this part of the site and retains a veteran ash, believed to be 600 years old.”

The developer also says it will make financial contributions to Kent County Council’s highways team for any traffic capacity increases to infrastructure.

The Croudace spokesman added: “With regards to traffic movements, this development will increase traffic onto Hermitage Lane by approximately 10 per cent. This is the equivalent of four extra cars per minute in

the morning rush hour and five extra cars in the evening rush hour.”

Lib Dem county councillor for Maidstone Central ward, Dan Daley, says the decision to allow more development in the area is “destructive”.

He said: “The Tory cabinet had yet another opportunity to review their destructive decision to expand the development area last August, when a 2,000 name petition calling for Bluebell Wood to be safeguarded was submitted, but again they chose to ignore residents.

“It is clear that the decisions by the 2000 Local Plan inspector and Conservative cabinet have made some of our most cherished landscapes extremely vulnerable.

“The submitted plans clearly show an access road and footways to be bulldozed through Bluebell Wood,

which will lead to direct destruction, fragmentation and disturbance of this precious wildlife resource.”

Cllr Daley also believes 500 extra houses will add pressure to the “already creaking” services of the town.

He added: “Highways, rail, health, education and recreational infrastructure and our few remaining areas of accessible countryside are already creaking under the strain of Maidstone’s existing population and years of under-investment.

“The extra pressure that will result from the Croudace plans and other major housing proposals in north-west Maidstone, threaten to be the straw that breaks the camel’s back.”

■ **What do you think? Share your views. Write to The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Or email [editorial@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedia.co.uk).**



# Ferry firm hits the right TV note

The nation's favourite choirmaster, Gareth Malone, jumps on board for BBC show. **Chris Murphy** tunes in

**G**ARETH Malone has emerged as one of the nation's most popular personalities as he continues to wage a battle to turn us on to the joys of singing.

More used to entering tough city schools and combating prejudice to win over youngsters keen to express themselves creatively, or forming the Military Wives' Choir, the choirmaster was back on our screens again this week – and in the county.

As part of his latest BBC2 series, called *Sing While You Work*, Mr Malone, 37, spent time at the offices of ferry company P&O in Dover – and on the firm's vessels travelling across the busy Dover to Calais route.

His mission was to form a choir capable of being named the nation's best workplace group.

The eight-part show, which continues on Monday, will see Mr Malone travel to five other workplaces before the choirs go head-to-head in a bid to be crowned champions.

Much of the filming for last week's episode took place in June and staff admit it has been tough waiting for the shows to finally broadcast.

Crews continued to film the choir until just last month, according to the Kent Film Office.



Scenes included Mr Malone at Dover's main ferry terminal, with the choir on the White Cliffs and travelling across the Channel.

A spokesman for the ferry company said: "We have been sworn to secrecy in blood not to give anything away about the shows."

"We were really happy to be chosen to take part and the staff really embraced the opportunity."

Viewers watched Mr Malone appeal to anyone on the company's staff to try out for the choir. They included management, call centre staff, chefs, stewards, warehouse workers and those based in Calais. The star said: "Each choir is supposed to be different and they are supposed to feel like the company they are representing."

He said that while it would be tempting to just pick the ones who sing nicely "what I want to hear is a sound that's like the sea".

The singers auditioned by singing Rod Stewart's *We Are Sailing*, before performing *Rock the Boat* in front of their impressed colleagues.

Others taking part in upcoming episodes of the show are Birmingham City Council, Sainsbury's, Citibank and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, all wanting to take to the stage and showcase their vocal abilities.

In last week's episode, Mr Malone challenges the choir to perform in both French and English – a sort of musical entente cordiale – for a performance of *Under the Sea*.

After the first five episodes follow the formation of each choir, the final three episodes will then see the choirs battle through the quarter and semi-final stages in pursuit of glory.

■ **Missed it?** You can view the opening episode of *Sing While You Work* online, via the BBC's iPlayer.



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# Cuts set to see our police force pay a high price again

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

KENT'S Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes has admitted the likely £20 million cut to the force's budget next year could lead to a new policing model being introduced.

Speaking about the bleak situation at a meeting with the Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel at County Hall, she stressed it was a particularly difficult time.

Kent Police has already been scaled back by 500 officers and 700 police staff due to £50m savings needed over four years, up to 2014/15, under a then-new policing model.

But there's no sign of the austerity easing.

With a further five per cent reduction in government grants, and other potential cuts for 2015/16, the future is anything but rosy.

Some are questioning how the police service can continue to run in its current form, and the likelihood is hundreds more job losses, for both officers and police staff.

Chief finance officer at the PCC's office, Sean Nolan, explained: "In terms of scale, the annual budget revenue is £317m.

"Almost 70 per cent of that is fi-

nanced by government grants so we are very sensitive to any changes.

"Nearly 80 per cent of the spend is on employees so we are very heavily dependent on how we manage that employee pool.

"We know we'll have a five per cent grant cut but in addition we know the Government intends to impose a National Insurance hike on all employers to pay for broader public pension policy.

"The irony is this hike is actually going to have the same quantitative impact as the grant cut.

"Thirdly, the Government intends to redistribute the police grant cake, so from south to north, for example, introducing deprivation factors.

"We think those three factors together will give us a problem of about £20m in 2015/16.

"That's on top of the £50m we've already had to save, on top of the 500 officers and 700 staff.

"If we did just a crude headcount we're talking somewhere between 200-300 more officers/staff would need to go."

Mrs Barnes stressed the force and her office were working hard on the savings and potential implications.

"Whether we need a new policing model? We're just going to have to think very carefully about that,"

she said. "It's a difficult time, I'm particularly worried about the police grant, and if they change the formula because we will lose out big time on that.

"As far as the precept is concerned, because Kent is low compared to other shire counties – for example, at Surrey 50 per cent of funding comes from precept and 50 per cent from government grant – we struggle more.

"It's different here – it's under 30 per cent from precept and the rest from government grants and so when the grants go down we suffer very badly."

Labour leader at Kent County Council, Gordon Cowan, said he feared the loss of government revenue support grants altogether meaning complete reliance on council tax.

"Can we really run an effective service on just 30 per cent?" he said.

Mrs Barnes has set out a number of priorities for the year ahead, including working with partners where appropriate and ensuring value for money.

Seven specific priorities, called the Golden Thread, have also been outlined, involving reducing drug and alcohol misuse, tackling domestic abuse and ensuring victims are at the heart of the process.



## Thin blue line 'might just snap'

Reduced budgets are adding increasing pressure to the force, says Police and Crime Commissioner **Ann Barnes** as she prepares to focus on 'visible community policing'

**E**VERYWHERE I go I hear the same message; people want visible community policing.

Only this week I was in Tonbridge at my Meet the Commissioner event and there was a really healthy debate with local people.

Everyone wants to have more police on their streets but the question is, at what cost?

I've been really impressed with how the force prepared for the first round of funding cuts.

In fact, it is to their credit that they have actually found the savings a year earlier than planned.

But let's be clear, they are now at an optimum number. The force is really creaking as around 500 officers and 1,000 police staff have

walked out the door and can't be replaced.

Frankly, the efficiency savings have cut numbers to the bone, and when 80 per cent of the police budget is on staff and officers; it doesn't leave many areas to find any more cash.

From 2015 onwards, we are looking at another £20 million being wiped off the books and meeting this is going to be incredibly challenging.

I'm really concerned because the thin blue line is a thin blue line, and I'm really worried it might just snap.

So how can we save visible community policing? It's the one thing that people ask for all

the time, so how on Earth do we pay for more?

It is a big concern and next week I will be launching an opportunity for the public to come along and have their say at a conference called Can We Save Visible Policing?

This is a great opportunity for everyone to really look in-depth at the cuts and their impact and what the future holds.

So keep an eye out on my website [www.kent-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk) from this Monday, November 11, as to how you can book your place. If Kent just paid the national average for its police council tax I would have another £10m in the coffers.

That's a vast amount of money

and would buy hundreds more officers. Public demands on the police service continue to rise and so do our expectations.

But we are not living in a utopia and we have to face a harsh reality. That's why I am urging you, if you care about your policing, then do come along to my event to have your say.

It's a real chance for everyone to talk our about their views and concerns and to see what we can do, together, to save visible community policing.

*Best wishes,  
Ann*



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## HISTORY OF THE CONTROVERSIAL KENT TEST

I TOOK my 11-plus nearly 60 years ago when it was just another test and I had no idea of its significance.

The method of deciding who should go to grammar school was different back then.

There was a pass mark and the primary head was sent a list of those who had passed, determining the number of grammar school places allocated to that primary school.

He (usually) then drew up a list of those to be offered grammar school places which could be based on the pass list, or not, if he saw miscarriages of justice (or favourites). To this day, I don't know if I passed!

Some years later, Kent County Council moved to the system of today, although the principle of not telling children they were taking the 11-plus is still remembered.

The 1980s saw the abolition of most grammar schools in the country, part of Mrs Thatcher's legacy being that she closed more than any other secretary of state for education. However, the argument over the nature of a single examination to decide on grammar school places, or indeed whether the selective system should exist, has been debated in Kent ever since.

Until recently, there was an informal KCC policy that an 11-plus pass entitled that Kent child to a grammar school place and there was sufficient provision to cater for all, as there is today.

However, the balance of passes has shifted to the west of the county with 38 per cent of state primary children in Sevenoaks compared to 20 per cent in Dover passing the 11-plus, even before private school candidates are counted.

Government support for parental choice saw children crossing into the west Kent grammar schools from Sussex and Surrey, placing this policy under further stress.

The final straw came when some Sevenoaks children were offered places at grammar schools in Folkestone, a decision that was heavily criticised and the policy was quietly dropped.

Now, passing the 11-plus offers no guarantee of a grammar school place, and two years

ago over 100 grammar-qualified children were not offered grammar school places, mainly in west Kent but with some in Herne Bay/Whitstable.

The problem eventually went away with grammar school expansions, some heading off to private education and others settling for non-selective schools, but KCC is now actively looking to expand grammar school provision to remove the pressure.

Over the past few years it has become obvious that intensive coaching for the 11-plus test has exacerbated the problem, with many parents feeling pressured to go down the same route.

Some children at private schools that actively prepare children for the test are also privately tutored outside school time.

Much of this pressure centres on the super-selective grammar schools in west Kent, where every mark in the test counts, but has spread across the county, so that untutored children are at a disadvantage, even though many still earn a grammar school place through natural ability.

In this hothouse climate, KCC is seeking to produce an 11-plus test that would diminish the imbalance caused by too many children passing in the west of Kent.

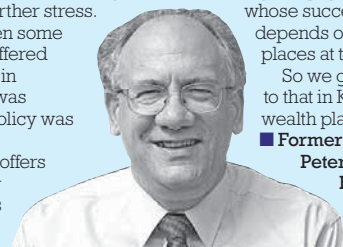
However, many parents seeking the 'best' schools for their children will, and are already, making every effort to prepare for the new tests, even though the details are not yet known. One way forward chosen by some is to prepare the child for every test eventually, without regard for the child's well-being. With tutoring taking place from the age of six in some families, what is happening to childhood?

Of course, in counties without grammar schools, selective private schools step in, fed by fee-paying prep schools whose success and survival depends on children gaining places at the senior school.

So we get a similar situation to that in Kent, but with family wealth playing a greater part.

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# What's the answer to the 11-plus quandry?

Social mobility tool par excellence or the preserve of the middle classes? **Marijke Cox** gets selective...

**H**IGHLY controversial and an on-going topic of debate; grammar schools and the contentious 11-plus exam remain a thorny issue.

Set up, in essence, to enhance social mobility, to provide bright children from less well-off backgrounds with the chance to thrive in state education, some argue it simply compounds the status quo.

Critics say selective schools have been hijacked by the middle classes, that the 11-plus exam – or Kent or Medway Test as it is known – has bred a culture of tutoring, which goes against that exact principle of why state grammars were introduced in the first place.

Supporters defending it, however, say a “one-size-fits-all” system, as offered by the comprehensive system in most other places across the UK, does not work effectively and it's right that children go to a school suited to their abilities.

So what is to be done?

The modern concept of grammars was established in 1944 under a new Education Act when a tripartite system was set up consisting of grammars, secondary moderns and technicals.

But amid great uproar within the education industry, grammar schools were largely abolished, replaced with comprehensives.

Comprehensives, it was argued, would halt the emerging class divide and what was believed to be sub-standard education in secondary moderns.

But with the control placed in local authorities' hands, Conservative-led counties such as Kent opted to retain the selective system.

Almost 70 years since they were first introduced into the state system, grammars in the county are thriving – they are so popular, in fact, many have had to expand. In Kent, there are 33 and Medway, six. Each year sees a huge clamour for places and many are perennially oversubscribed.

But the question still remains as to whether the whole process allows social mobility or whether it is creating a divide and neglecting the bright, less well-off children in favour of middle-class families who can afford private tutoring or private primary education to secure the required grade?

Teaching unions have been outspoken about the impact a ‘pass/fail’ exam can have on an 11-year-old – the age the test is taken to determine whether a child will go to a grammar or not. The top 25 per cent of pupils, deemed the brightest, get places.

General secretary of teaching union the NAS-UWT, Chris Keates, described it as a “discredited and deeply damaging” system.

MP for Dartford Gareth Johnson, a former pupil at Dartford Grammar School, disagrees.

He explains: “Grammars provide social mobility and more opportunities for thousands of children. They're not for everyone, but we shouldn't have a one-size-fits-all system. That wouldn't work – all children are different.

“I'd argue that where you have comprehensives, the catchment areas around the good schools are popular and house prices then become high.

“You then find that only the children from



wealthy families would be able to go to those good comprehensives.”

He disputed claims the 11-plus system was damaging, creating a success/failure culture.

“It's about where a child's skills are best placed,” he said.

“Where they are more suited to vocational subjects it makes sense for them to go to a school which will help develop this.

“Just because you don't go to a grammar school it doesn't mean you're a failure.

“The reason they (grammars) are successful in Kent is because we've got different types of schools. A variety of schools ensures we don't have a one-size-fits-all system.”

Bred from the notion that grammars offer a superior education to non-selectives, parents go to great lengths to ensure their child bags a place. And it's not surprising, with Kent's grammars storming up the league tables. Six of them saw every one of their pupils achieve five A\*-C grades including English and maths at GCSE this year.

The remainder saw the vast majority of their pupils achieve that national benchmark.

But the coaching culture had reached such levels Kent County Council was forced to look at overhauling the current exam, making it less “coachable”.

And last month, the authority announced a new form of examination which would be more varied. It means from next September, parents of Year 6 pupils should find it harder to coach their children, thus ensuring it once again becomes a more accurate reflection of a child's intelligence.

Divisional secretary of Kent NUT, John Walder, who believes schooling should be comprehensive, spoke to KoS when KCC announced it would be reforming the system.

He said: “Coaching should form no part of it. It should be naturally based on how the child copes. If you coach, the chances are there will be some children who have a hard time at the selective school due to their inability to cope.”

KCC awarded a new contract for the Kent Test to the current provider, GL Assessment, but changes have been made to ensure a more streamlined exam with less burden on schools and their pupils.

There will be two main tests, one assessing reasoning ability and one assessing pupils' attainment in literacy and numeracy.

Most significantly, the exercises will be varied, making it harder for children to be coached.

But Dartford MP Mr Johnson said he didn't believe there was such a thing as a tutor-proof exam: “I don't think it exists, but KCC is trying

to get something less predictive, to create a more level playing field.”

Mr Johnson highlighted the fact that selective schools had to expand due to popularity and that a “satellite” grammar was being planned for Sevenoaks, which currently has no selective provision.

“I think we can be very proud. Plenty of people look positively on Kent that we still have this education system. We should protect it.”

Campaign group, the Local Schools' Network, however, is pushing for a future of comprehensive schooling.

A spokesman said: “We believe parents and their children should choose schools, rather than schools choosing pupils. We would like to see an end to selection on ability.”

The Conservatives Party, traditionally a supporter of grammar schools, is even starting to turn its attentions towards academies over selective education, although there are no plans to scrap grammars.

But with a county whose Tory leaders clearly support the selective system – it's likely to be here to stay, and with it the contention it courts.

What do you think? Should Kent drop its selective education status? Share your views. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS or editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.



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**DAVE** 50, likes holidays, meals out, socialising, easy going, seeks female 40 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408541

**ADAM** 48, single dad, bored, seeking fun and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408421

**DAVE** 50, seeks female of similar age for meals out, holidays etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408415

**RETIRED** male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Midway area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408343

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**YOUNG** 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405519

**BARRY** 49, 6ft, well built, easygoing, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401401

**JOHN** 40, likes nights out, pubs, clubs, walks, countryside, GSOH, N/S, dad of one, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390119

**CHRIS** from Folkestone, 68yrs young widower, N/S, 5ft 9ins, OHAC, likes country music, rock n roll, W/LTM N/S female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405079

**RETIRED** male 68, 5ft 8ins, considerate, GSOH, easygoing, likes driving, shopping, most music, seeking lady 60-70 for friendship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404589

**DOG** lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial. Tunbridge Wells area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417

**TALL** slim male, early 40's, seeks loving female, 29-39 to share the nice things in life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407065

**PROFESSIONAL** 45yr old male, one son, bored of the same thing, seeks lady for possible romance. Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386234

**CHRIS** 68, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271

**55YR** old male, average looks, GSOH, looking to meet similar lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408227

**JAMIE** 6ft 1ins, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 40-50, easy going for no strings fun, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408051

**CANTERBURY** mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim-medium build female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697

**STEVE** 64, active, likes fishing, swimming, karaoke, honest, genuine, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405717

**LIGHT** hearted 58yr old male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, lively, active, seeks pretty woman 28-50 for fun times. Cryodun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393567

**KEVIN** 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405

**DAVE** 45, 6ft, large build, ginger hair, green eyes, caring, OHAC, likes laugh, cinema, pubs, restaurants, walks, shopping, music, dvc, gardening, animals, seeks female of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405451

**35YR** old male, 6ft, dark hair, easy going, likes music, films, reading, walks, looking for female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405941

**DISCREET** kind man, 48, gentle, loving, genuine, seeking lady, Whitestable. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406439

**KEVIN** 50 6ft average build, kind, caring, GSOH, black hair, hazel eyes, various interests, seeks female 35-55 for friendship/romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405087

**VINCENT** 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373797

**HAPPY** go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719

**GARY** 48, 6ft, well built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175

**WARM** honest, caring man, 5ft 9ins, 60's, fit, likes dancing, meals out, seeks romantic encounter with kind lady, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388547

**MATURE** man, enjoys life, socialising, N/S, solvent, OHAC, seeks attractive lady, any age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388808

**MARK** tactile, seeks lady 30-60 for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373753


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# For the love of the Bard

Sharing the stage with a movie heartthrob is nothing compared with living the Shakespearean dream. **Greg Miles** finds out about life in the limelight.

**T**O be or not to be in Shakespeare was never really the question as far as actor Ian Drysdale was concerned – it just had to happen.

The West End thespian from Tunbridge Wells is on stage in the capital this month with the Michael Grandage Company production of *Henry V*.

He will be sharing the stage with Hollywood star Jude Law, no less, in the Shakespeare play, which joins *Twelfth Night*, *Ivanov* and *Hamlet* on his CV.

Drysdale, 41, has had parts in *The Bill* and Channel 4's *Southcliffe*, which was filmed in Faversham earlier this year, but it is Shakespeare that is closest to his heart.

Such direction was set in childhood when he was inspired after being taken to watch shows.

"There was no history of acting in my family," he said. "My parents had an interest in the arts and I would be taken to the theatre.

"I was very lucky in that respect. I don't know quite where I got the bug from – I suppose it was watching a great performance."

His ambition as a young thespian sounds remarkably similar to what he is doing now, but it is a difficult road to living the dream: "I went to drama school about 16 years ago at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

"It was very highly geared towards classical acting and there was a lot of emphasis placed on how to speak verse and interpret Shakespeare. I got a very good grounding early on.

"When you leave drama school you just tend to go up for whatever work is on offer, really, because it's a very competitive field.

"When you leave you have great ambitions of what direction you would like to take your career in. But at the same time you have to be realistic. It's a very over-subscribed business.

"When I left I had ambitions to work for the big companies like the Royal Shakespeare Company [RSC], whose performances had really inspired me and made me realise this is what I wanted to do.

"I have had some lean times, but I'm more fortunate than a lot of people in this profession because it's very tough."

The classical teaching style at drama school paid dividends as he was able to work for the RSC after a few years of hard graft.

"That continued on the grounding I had at drama school and was a huge learning experience in itself," he said. "It carried on from there, really. The RSC was a great moment in my



have a family to support.

"You would end up doing two or three shows a day, or doing the school shows. They are the toughest audience to crack – you can lose them in a second."

The job certainly has its perks as he gets the chance to work alongside the likes of Law and his idol Kenneth Branagh, whom he worked with in *Ivanov* in 2008.

"Working with Kenneth was a really big thing for me personally," he said. "When I was younger and starting out, he was one of the people I admired. He inspired me and made me want to make a go of it in the profession."

This will be the second time that Drysdale has worked with Hollywood star Law as they were

**“Shakespeare can come across as being like another language, which is a terrible shame because it's not. It's all down to how it's taught”**

in *Hamlet* together in 2009.

"It doesn't get any bigger than him," he said. "He's one of the nicest people you could wish to meet. It's always nice when you meet people at that level of fame, who are at the top of this profession, and he manages to be incredibly down to earth and a joy to act with.

"You get a lot of A-list celebrities who are keen to do live theatre. Some see it as proving their legitimacy. There are actors who have been in theatre and just love to keep coming back to it."

Shakespeare is certainly not everyone's cup of tea and it can be completely alien to some youngsters, but it is all about how it is taught, insists Drysdale: "It was only something I got to grips with watching it on stage.

"For so many people it can come across as being like another language, which is a terrible shame because it's not. It's all down to how it's taught.

"It is certainly better now than it was when I was growing up. The best way to attract people into Shakespeare is to let them watch it. It's written to be performed and be heard.

"One of the great things about being involved with Michael Grandage's company is that he likes to get young people into it.

"We put on one performance

early career that led on to other things.

"Shakespeare gives you a lot of grounding in other things. It's regarded as one of the things that if you can master you can take on just about anything else. There is a level of expectation that comes with having done Shakespeare."

There were times, though, when he had to take what work he could:

"Your priorities are different when you're younger. What you're looking for is experience of any sort. You end up taking jobs that a few years down the line you wouldn't think about.

"I have done the usual thing of touring around in a mini-van with three actors doing a four-man version of *Macbeth*. It's great fun at the time, but I'm older now and

Continued on page 38 »

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# Want to be a motormouth?

KoS motoring writer **Steve Loader** reviews the latest amusing 'crash' course in holding your own in dinner-party car chat



**N**EVER again confuse your trunnions with gudgeon pins, or your big end with locknuts – some of the conundrums solved by a Kent writer's new book *The Bluffer's Guide To Cars*.

The best-selling Bluffer's Guides seek to demystify on the topics that oil dinner parties and pub chats, especially once the alcohol kicks in.

It is surprising, though, how long this eclectic series took to get around to cars, dogs, stand-up comedy and chocolate being some of the digressions before motoring writer Martin Gurdon was approached.

However, the publishers chose their scribe well here as Gurdon, who lives in Woodchurch, has been immersed in motors since he was a babe and his book has earned plaudits from his peers, including TV

presenter and motoring writer Quentin Willson and Daily Telegraph motoring agony uncle Honest John.

Even a motors layman cannot fail to be entertained by Gurdon's ability to zoom in on everyday truths, such as this description of a harassed parent's car in the *Spot The Driver* chapter: "There will be weary child seats, toys, and weeks of domestic detritus: half-empty fizzy drinks bottles, crisp packets, and bits of Lego for adults to kneel on when looking under a front seat for an inconsolable screaming child's lost toy."

And there's this gem from the *International Characteristics* chapter: "German cars always come with huge instruction books with more badly written words than a Dan Brown thriller. They are also often very bossy, more or less warning hapless owners that they

face imprisonment if they forget to check their tyre pressures."

Other chapters include *Visionary Petrolheads* – if you want to know why petrol-tankers are sometimes called *Bowers* – *Buying and Selling* and *What's That Ticking Noise?*

Martin's first car cost five pence – from his dad – and he's since owned about 80 "in various states of dilapidation".

On that road, he learned what made them work: "Growing up before manufacturers began cloaking the gubbins under the bonnet from the prying eyes of DIY motorists, Dad and I would take over the kitchen table for various bits of automotive surgery."

"Our luggage on one family holiday included a spare gearbox, duly fitted before we came home."

Understandably, an urge to write

about cars kicked in and, like so many would-be journalists, he gained a ground-floor job at the then hub of newspapers, London's Fleet Street, becoming a messenger boy for the Press Association. It was then a case of badgering the right people and he struck gold at 19 by nagging the legendary editor of *Car* magazine, Steve Cropley.

"He liked my letter, didn't like my ideas, but let me write a sample article. It was horribly over-written at first, but I submitted 800 words for which *Car* paid me £150 – a lot of money at the time."

"I then wrote for *Autocar's* *Me And My Cars*, notably one where – rather timidly – I approached the formidable chain-smoking Daily Express columnist Jean Rook. She couldn't have been nicer."

But Gurdon still wasn't 'in' with

the motoring media, so he took a job as a copywriter with a PR agency, next moving to a trade journal:

"It wasn't what I wanted to do but gave me the journalistic grounding for another stab at motoring writing."

He has since supplied or worked directly for *The Guardian*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Evening Standard*, *The Independent*, *Octane* and *Classic Cars* and written books on various topics on and away from cars, most recently *Doing Bird*, a journal of his life surrounded by chickens, ducks and other animals at his home.

But he admits 'the car thing' never goes away and he is about to seek a publisher for *Carnal Knowledge – Confessions Of A Motoring Journalist*.

Gurdon owns a 1951 Bristol 401, which doesn't go, and a 12-year-old Toyota Avensis estate, which is "achingly dull but never goes wrong".



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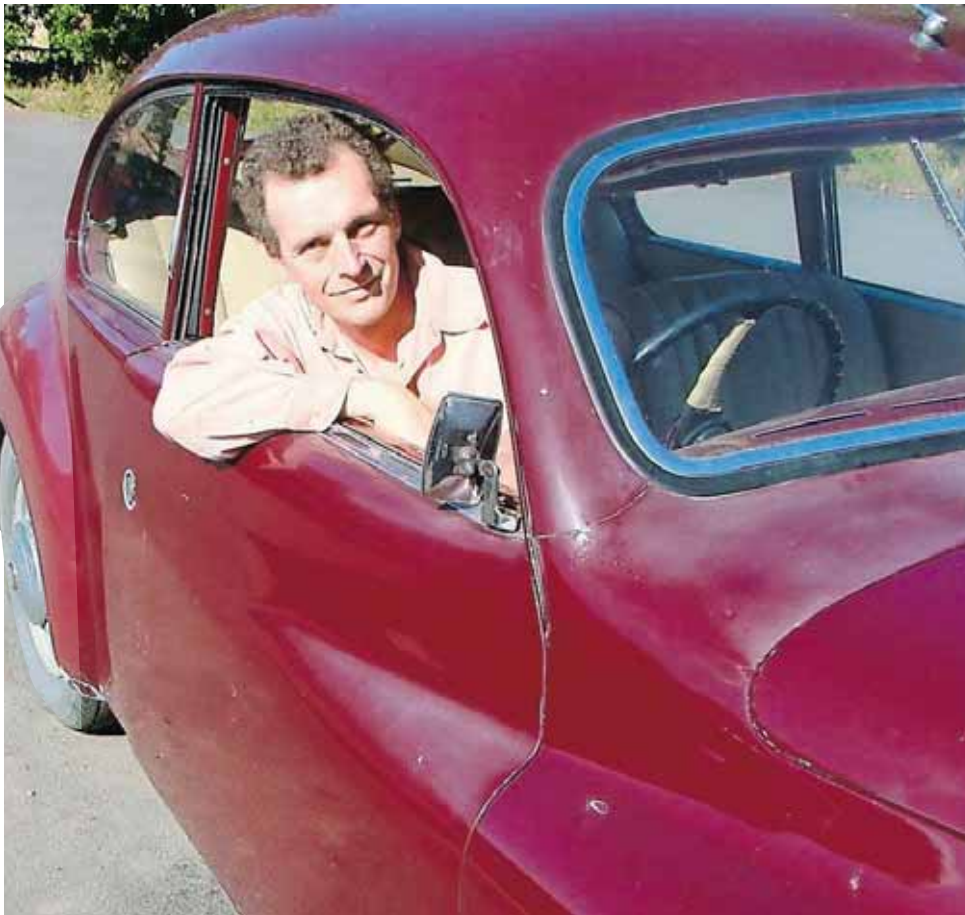
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**FOR THE LOVE OF BRISTOL:** Martin Gurdon has a lifelong passion for the little-known British luxury marque, Bristol. He is pictured left aged eight in his dad's Bristol 401 and later at the wheel of his own 401, acquired in 1997.

## Time Out Top Ten

### 1 Central Theatre, Chatham

Sunday, November 10  
Phone: 01634 338338

**The Stylistics:** Enjoy all their harmonic hits from the early 1970s. Tickets from £19.50.

### 2 Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs

Saturday, November 23  
www.sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk

**Alice in Wonderland:** Theatre club juniors and the timeless classic. Tickets £7 adults, £5 children.

### 3 The Tower Theatre, Shorncliffe

Thursday, November 14  
Phone: 01303 260330

**Jeff Hooper:** Vocalist with the Syd Lawrence Orchestra now with his own trio. Tickets £10.

### 4 The Forum, Tunbridge Wells

Saturday, November 16  
www.dreadzone.com

**Dreadzone:** Escapades tour celebrates 20th anniversary and seventh album. Tickets £16.

### 5 The Orchard, Dartford

Monday, November 11  
Phone: 01322 220000  
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

**Al Murray:** The Pub Landlord is back with his new show *The Only Way is Epic*. Tickets £26.50.

### 6 Historic Dockyard, Chatham

Thursday, December 12  
Phone: 01634 823816

**Carol service:** Rochester Cathedral Choir is leading the congregational singing. Suggested donation £5.

### 7 Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

Friday, November 29  
Phone: 01303 858500  
www.leascliffhall.co.uk

**An Evening of Burlesque:** Europe's biggest touring burlesque show is coming to town. Tickets £23.

### 8 The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

Sunday, November 10  
www.marlowetheatre.com

**An Evening With Mandy Winters:** Intimate performance from cabaret singer. Starts 7.30pm. Tickets £13.

### 9 Powell-Cotton Museum, Bichington

Sunday, November 24  
Phone: 01843 842168

**Craft fair:** More than 70 stalls selling gifts and stocking-fillers. Admission £3 adults (children free).

### 10 York Street Methodist Church, Broadstairs

Sunday, November 17, at 3pm  
www.trinitytheatre.net

**Guitar and violin recital:** Guitarist Jamie Moore and violinist Frank Biddulph. Tickets from £10.

# Chalkwell DayBreaks



### HARRY POTTER STUDIOS IN THE SNOW

Saturday 4th January 2014

At the Harry Potter Studios you will see the sets, props and costumes that appeared in the movies. You can wander down the cobbles of Diagon Alley, inspect the cable settings in the Great Hall at Hogwarts, gaze at the bookshelves in Dumbledore's office and peer through the windows of number four Privet Drive. An absolute MUST for Harry Potter fans of all ages.

Adult £55.00 / Senior £54.00 / Child £51.00



### FROM HERE TO ETERNITY

Wednesday 15th January 2014

Don't miss the world Premiere production of Tim Rice's magnificent new epic musical - From Here to Eternity. Adapted from one of the greatest novels of the 20th century, this gripping tale of illicit love and army life is a breathtaking, romantic and excitingly original show that is set to join the front rank of great musicals.

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Thursday 13th March 2014

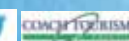
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« Continued from page 35

which is given over to the schools entirely for free.

"I remember when we did Hamlet – that was the most incredible audience we had. They had never read or seen it and they were totally wrapped up by it.

"Those are the people who in the future are going to pay to come and see it. If we lose them now, that's the end of the future of British theatre.

"Someone said to me the other day that 25 per cent of the audience bookings are from first-time theatre-goers, which is great."

In between the Shakespearean roles he keeps himself busy with an interesting sideline.

If you have ever wondered where all the random noises come from in video games, there is a chance it could well be Drysdale pretending to be a German prison guard or making screeching noises for various sound effects.

"As an actor you put together a voice tape and send it out to various people in the hope someone will take an interest," he said. "Fortunately I got a call from a guy who runs his own production studio for video games.

"He asked if I could be a German prison guard shouting a lot. I get asked to do different noises, being mutilated, or running through a forest... various other bizarre things like that.

"It's great fun. I spend hours in the studio doing screeches and all the accents under the sun.

"They will show a video-clip of the

game, so I see what I'm putting my voice to. It's all very quick. In that environment, time is money.

"There is a guy behind the glass saying 'Do it louder!' or 'More German!' and you just do it on the spur of the moment. There are no discussions about my character or doing this or that."

Normally keen to share his work with his two young daughters, one of whom is becoming obsessed with Shakespeare, he does not let them

**“ I get asked to do different noises, being mutilated, or running through a forest... various other bizarre things like that ”**

near the games.

"They are just not suitable. I have two girls who ask what did I do today. I can't tell them," he said.

"I tend to send the games to their cousins, who are a bit older and have slightly less strict parents."

All a far cry from Shakespeare, which is, of course, the ultimate in his eyes.

"I don't think I would ever like to move away from Shakespeare," he said. "It's something I love doing and would always come back to."

■ Henry V is at the Noel Coward Theatre in the West End from Saturday, November 23, to Saturday, February 15, 2014. Tickets are priced at £10, £27.50 and £57.50. To book, phone 0844 482 5141.



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KENT LIFE



## Serving up a cool treat, one spoonful at a time

From sky-high desserts to tubs on the door, **Greg Miles** speaks to the man behind the delicious ice cream that's being sampled all around the world

It may not be the time of year for ice cream, but one Kent company is proving the cold stuff is not just for a heatwave.

From its base in the aptly-named village of Ripple, near Deal, Solley's Farm Real Dairy Ice Creams has been going steadily about its business for almost three decades.

Its products are already familiar along the coast and around Kent and they are now becoming increasingly popular at 40,000ft, having found success with Australian airline Qantas earlier this year.

What was originally a dairy farm has changed over the years as the cattle were sold off and milk was brought in, while wheat has been grown throughout.

"A friend of mine was in Yorkshire and stumbled upon this farm. They were selling ice creams on the door and told us, so we started doing the rounds and explored and saw what they were doing and 12 months after that we began with a tiny little machine and grew from that," said owner Stephen Solley.

Today he takes a step back, having started making ice cream in 1985 with his daughter and son-in-law increasingly involved. "My grandparents used to have a dairy farm," he said. "We started doing milk rounds again because we had a farm shop and didn't sell milk and the council said 'You've got the licence - why don't you sell it?', so we did. That was in the early



80s. We did semi-skimmed milk, which left us at times of the year with a surplus of cream and so we started using that in the tiny machine for ice cream.

"The cows went in 1999, but I decided to keep the ice cream because I was determined to make it a business."

Having also farmed wheat, Stephen knows the difficult circle involved in the industry, with prices for crops and milk peaking and troughing each year.

"I see both sides of it. Although I don't have cows any more, I'm very aware about that. I grow wheat and the prices vary and that can have an effect on the milk," he said.

"One is you're dealing with an animal and the other you're dealing with people and they can be as good or as bad as each other.

"One can carry the other a little bit. It's swings and roundabouts, but it's better than having all your

eggs in one basket."

In the food industry miles can often mean money, and so it is important for Stephen to source as much as he can close to him.

His milk makes the short journey from just down the road, with 86 per cent of his ingredients coming from Britain, and primarily Kent.

However, one of the things he does have to bring in is the fruit purées that make up flavours in the ice cream. The quality of Italian purées just cannot be rivalled on these shores.

With costs on the mind, the plan has and always will be to not bite off more than the company can chew.

"The ice cream can grow, but I would never be able to get the farm to grow - there are just too many other bigger farms that can outbid you," he said.

"It's a competitive market, but there is plenty of room for us around here. You could end up expanding rapidly and not being able to cope with it all and things could collapse.

"We are just gently expanding, growing 3 or 4 per cent a year. That is all sustainable, you just have to be careful."

Part of that growth has come in the way of business with airlines. Earlier this year, Qantas took an interest and put Solley's down for one of its menus to be consumed all over the world.

"It all depends on what they're looking for," he said. "The companies change their menu

twice a year - they might want an ice cream or a certain kind of ice cream. We take samples up to London and keep our fingers crossed.

"It was fantastic to be selected. I just wish I could afford to sit in that seat and eat the ice cream myself."

The greater public certainly know what they are looking for when it comes to ice cream, with 50 per cent of Solley's sales being taken up by vanilla. They do have room for a number of specialist ice creams, which may not be to everybody's tastes, though.

"We do garlic and honey for a

**“You could end up expanding rapidly and not being able to cope with it all and things could collapse”**

restaurant in London," he said. "We take it up to London in the back of a car well sealed. It's a Swedish restaurant. You can't go into that restaurant without having garlic."

That particular speciality aside, Solley's has more conventional flavours coming up in time for Christmas, with apple crumble, crème brûlée and Christmas pudding on the menu, proving surely that ice cream is truly an all-year-round treat.

■ Visit [www.solleysicecream.co.uk](http://www.solleysicecream.co.uk) for more information.



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# Our winners will be named in just a few days

**W**ELL, the waiting is almost over! The Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food and Drink Awards are almost upon us and this Thursday the winners will be revealed during a sumptuous event at the Tudor Park Hotel in Bearsted, near Maidstone.

It will be an evening of celebration sure to live long in the memory as the winners in all 11 categories are revealed, along with the county's food and drink hero.

Kaddy Lee-Preston, the BBC South East weather girl, will host the evening.

The unveiling of the champions will take place in the Thurnham Suite and as if the excitement were not great enough, those lucky enough to be present will be treated to a three-course meal prepared by executive head chef Tom Biddle.

If you need any further convincing that this is a night of stars, after the ceremony, Josh James will be entertaining the audience.

You might remember the gifted

singer as Josh Dubovie, the name he carried into 2010's Eurovision Song Contest in Norway, where he represented the UK by singing the Pete Waterman-produced song That Sounds Good To Me. He has since rebranded, forging a career as a singer and theatre performer.

There is only one downside to the whole show, and that is that tickets for the Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food and Drink Awards were snapped up in almost indecent haste!

So, if you weren't one of those blessed enough to secure a ticket, you will have to be a little quicker next year.

In the meantime, we will let you know who triumphed in next week's paper. But if you can't wait, we will put the results on [www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk) the very next morning.

But enough of the talking. It's time to get on with the judging, the singing, the dancing and, perhaps above all, the eating!

What a night lies ahead... we just wish you could all be there.

## THE COMPLETE SHORTLIST

### Independent retailer

63 Harbour Street, Whitstable  
Cookietastic  
Macknade Fine Foods, Faversham

### Farm shop of the year

Quex Barn Farm Shop, Birchington  
Stanhill Farm Shop, Dartford  
The Barnyard and Gore Farm, Upchurch

### Tea shop of the year

Mrs Knott's Tea Room, St Margaret's  
The Lavender Tea House, Folkestone  
Fir Tree House Tea Room, Penshurst

### Chef of the year

Tom Batt, of Deeson's, Canterbury  
Graham Garrett,  
of The West House Restaurant, Biddenden  
Charlie Lakin,  
of The Marquis at Alkham, Alkham

### Family dining venue

Little Brown Jug, Tonbridge  
The Waggon at Hale, Chatham  
Bow's Kitchen, Margate

### Pub of the year

The Three Tuns, Lower Halstow  
Five Bells Inn, Brabourne  
The Vineyard, Lamberhurst



### Restaurant of the year

Thackerays, Tunbridge Wells  
The Ambrette, Margate  
Culpepers @ Chilston Park, Maidstone

### Butcher of the year

Haywards Butchers, Tonbridge  
Dadds Family Butcher,  
Westgate-on-Sea  
Fullers Butchers,  
Tunbridge Wells

### Farmers' market of the year

The Goods Shed, Canterbury  
Tonbridge Farmers' Market  
Cranbrook Farmers' Market

### Newcomer of the year

The Corner House, Minster  
The Oyster Pearl, Whitstable  
East Coast Dining Room, Whitstable

### Food or drink producer

Nip from the Hip, Maidstone  
Winterdale Cheesemakers, Wrotham  
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# Put down all those bags and enter a fishy paradise

## Loch Fyne

**Location:** Bluewater

Reviewed by **DAVID MAIRS**

**I**T is, in all honesty, not the easiest task to create a restaurant with a sense of intimacy and atmosphere among the thronging masses of Bluewater.

Perhaps it is all the more difficult when that particular restaurant is Loch Fyne, a venue that has an image cultivated through no small coincidence to bring to mind glorious visions of Scottish coastal scenery, tranquillity, hearty fisherfolk going about their business and, of course, the joyous bounty of the pristine

oceans. Bluewater, you might think, is the very last place to host such dreams with any degree of credibility.

Although the enormous north Kent shopping centre is to a large extent built on the concept of quality, with the thought of grabbing a low-end burger and chips essentially a thing of the past, the challenge is still there.

And, truth to tell, eating at Bluewater's Loch Fyne is not quite the full restaurant experience, although then perhaps we don't go

into it with that expectation. Either way, though, it is still a rather enjoyable encounter.

The throngs of which we spoke are, of course, not so very far away, but they are distant enough not to be a menace. And if you feel the place itself just the tiniest bit soulless, well, again, you're not in a remote fishing village tucked into a cove on the Isle of Skye. Everything has its context.

The food here is cooked to an excellent standard. Our opening bread and mixed olives were delightful, as were our respective starters of chilli and garlic king prawns pan-fried in lemon oil, with granary bread, and tempura battered soft-shell crab with chilli

marmalade. All the ingredients were fresh, crisp and lightly cooked to perfection.

My main course was gilt-head bream fillet with Scottish scallops, palourde clams, samphire, spinach and new potatoes (see image above).

To describe this as food from the gods for any discerning lover of seafood would be somewhere close to the truth.

Perhaps the bream should have had the word 'perfection' added somewhere in its description.

This is why we go to restaurants – because good chefs can cook food better than we can. It's something that can be forgotten, not least by the restaurants themselves. Happily not

here, though.

My companion enjoyed British lemon sole pan-fried with buttered new potatoes and beurre noisette to an apparently similar degree.

A couple of glasses of Sauvignon Blanc brought the price to a little over £70, which seemed thoroughly reasonable. If you're in Bluewater, do visit Loch Fyne... it's good.

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## The hypocrisy of Ukip's Birkby

So Hod Birkby is opposed to admitting Roma. And other immigrants?

Pity all those native Australians, Americans, Caribbeans could not object to the take-over of their lands by incoming British migrants a couple of hundred years ago.

All of these natives either died from imported diseases or were killed quite deliberately.

If we had compulsory and free language classes for all immigrants there might be fewer problems.

And would Mr Birkby care to tell us what he was doing in the three countries in which he lived in the past 10 years? Was he working? Did he pay tax there? Speak the local language?

**Marika Sherwood, Oare**

## AV was never a welcome option

It is important to challenge Dr Alan Bullion over his 'economy with the truth' about proportional representation.

To succeed in their obsession with getting into government, the Liberal Democrats agreed to drop their request for proportional representation by the Single Transferable Vote and instead accepted the Alternative Voting system, which Nick Clegg himself before the election described as "a miserable little compromise".

That the referendum failed to achieve sufficient support for change had nothing to do with Ed Miliband, as he alleges, but the fact that AV was, and is, a very poor substitute for a genuinely proportional representation system.

Despite that, many people (myself included) campaigned for it, but there was always the underlying feeling we were 'fighting a losing battle', because the only choice available had already been 'rubbed' by the leader of the party most in favour of change.

One thing we can agree on is that in Europe generally coalitions are very common.

However, that is as far as my agreement goes, because the fact is coalitions are most common in countries that have a proportional representation voting system, so the voters in those countries can exercise choice in their voting.

Thus the result is more likely to be that their vote means something, because they may be 'proportionately represented'

## LETTER OF THE WEEK



## Bees need all the help they can get to survive

The report on the danger to bees is quite alarming, but it is not only honey bees that are at risk.

There are over 300 species of bee in this country and all but one of them is in danger.

There are various reasons for this.

They include the fact the wet winter of 2000 drowned many of those that hibernate under ground and they have been slow to recover. In addition, the indiscriminate use of pesticides has been killing bees for years.

Obsessive tidiness in gardens deprives wild bees of nesting sites and food sources. Some people think wild flowers are weeds. The

concreting over of lawns and gardens is also a major factor.

It is possible to help bees by growing a succession of suitable flowers for them to feed on throughout the year. Artificial double flowers are of no use.

If possible, rough areas should be left to provide nesting sites for wild bees.

Most garden centres now sell nesting boxes for bumble bees and solitary bees and they are quite easy to make.

It is also possible to take up bee keeping but this might not be popular with neighbours in a residential area.

**David Burgess, Hawkhurst**

in a coalition government.

In this country we have the first-past-the-post voting system, so a party that emerges from an election with fewer MPs than it had before has little if any legitimacy to represent the views of the electorate in government.

**Christopher Hudson-Gool, Maidstone**

## Even Labour has more support

You have to wonder sometimes about the mentality of the Liberal Democrats.

For reasons which have escaped everyone else, they seem to think they are sharing power as part of the Coalition as a consequence of polling sufficient votes to justify that.

The reality, of course, is that they, once again, finished third in the General Election – with less seats than they started with.

In short, they were a party apparently declining in popularity. Not to the extent of Labour under Gordon Brown, admittedly, but then that was a party which had held three straight majorities.

So the likes of Jasper Gerard – who you profiled last week – ought to remember that the Lib Dems have not finally stumbled upon the recipe

for electoral success. Far from it.

They have simply spied an opportunity to grasp power they are far from entitled to, in order to create some form of working majority, albeit as part of a coalition.

Labour has more chance of a comeback in Kent than the Lib Dems – and that's saying something.

**T Hunter, Tonbridge**

## Small businesses want referendum

In whom do we trust?

The British Chambers of Commerce, representing small businesses in Britain, recently announced the result of a poll in which 77 per cent were asking for an in/out referendum on Europe.

Meanwhile, at this week's CBI conference – representing large multinational companies, who have vested international interests in remaining in the EU – scary warnings were issued about leaving this costly union.

Small businesses have been and will be the backbone of this country, if they are given the freedom to operate.

Lower rates for small businesses would be a start.

Some are growing and exporting their goods independent of the EU and as they grow they are employing more staff.

Incidentally, in a recent YouGov survey commissioned by Business for Britain, nearly half of CBI members polled said they felt the cost of red tape outweighed the benefits of EU membership.

**June Moore, Rusthall**

## It's the EU's fault we're so green

An international news network reported recently it now costs British businesses and taxpayers £27 billion per year implementing the barrage of rules and regulations thrown at us by the EU at Brussels.

All Kent's green agendas, by demand from Brussels, are part of those unnecessary costs imposed on us by foreigners there who are ruling and wrecking our lives.

Businesses and the electorate should make all Kent's MPs explain and justify their party's stance on Britain's continued membership of the EU, and this disgusting and unnecessary waste of our money which is financially crippling both British business and the British public alike.

**Roger Arnold, Herne Bay**

## KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

As part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline "Inspiring Communities".

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles: **Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between

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- 8) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 9) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
- 10) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 11) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.





## Leeds Castle

by **Jack Casement**  
from Horsmonden

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## BROMLEY COLLEGE OPEN EVENTS

**GOOD with outstanding features OFSTED - 2013**

**Visit us:**

**Bromley Campus**

Saturday 16 November - 10am-2pm

**Orpington Campus**

Tuesday 19 November - 4.30pm-7.30pm

**New 14-16 College**

**Vocational**

**GCSEs**

**A Levels**

**Degrees**

**Professional**

**Apprenticeships**

**Traineeships**

14-16 College Information Event

**Bromley Campus**

Saturday 23 November - 10am - 12pm

Higher Education & Professional Courses Information Event

**Bromley Campus**

Wednesday 27 November 5pm - 7.30pm

**BromleyCOLLEGE**  
OF FURTHER & HIGHER EDUCATION



## CHOOSE YOUR PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

**School or College?**

**A Level or vocational course?**

**Apprenticeship or degree?**

With so many options available, choosing your next step after school can be tricky, which is why it's important to explore your options and decide on a pathway that's right for you.

Coming to college gives you the chance to study in a different way – Bromley College offers vocational courses, A Levels, GCSEs, Apprenticeships and degree level courses so there's something for everyone. They offer a wide range of subjects, which are taught by industry professionals. As a student you'll be treated as an adult, and there's no uniform to wear. You'll be given a flexible timetable and have plenty of free time so you can plan your own study time.

### What's on offer:

**Bromley College's new 14-16 College** is something new and exciting for young people.

Year 9 students choosing their options can now study for their GCSEs at Bromley College, alongside one of their vocational courses.

**Vocational courses** are practical, work-related courses in a wide range of subjects which relate to different jobs and industries.

**A Levels** can help you progress on to higher education. If you didn't get the grades you wanted first time around at school, you can also re-sit your GCSEs.

**Apprenticeships** are a great way to work and develop your skills within a particular sector and job role.

You can earn while you learn, building up knowledge and skills, whilst achieving a nationally recognised qualification.

Get a **degree** at Bromley College without leaving home! You can study for a foundation degree or degree right on your doorstep with Bromley College and their partner universities.

### Find out more

Visit Bromley College at their upcoming Open Events; they are a great opportunity to have a look around the College, see their facilities and find out more about the great range of courses on offer.

**Saturday 16 November, 10am – 2pm**

Bromley Campus - Rookery Lane, Bromley, BR2 8HE

**Tuesday 19 November, 4.30pm - 7.30pm**

Orpington Campus - The Walnuts, Orpington, BR6 0TE

[www.bromley.ac.uk](http://www.bromley.ac.uk) | [facebook.com/bromleycollege](https://www.facebook.com/bromleycollege)  
[twitter.com/bromleycollege](https://twitter.com/bromleycollege)

**Visit [www.bromley.ac.uk](http://www.bromley.ac.uk) for more information.**

# Kent Invicta Chamber

## The County's Premier Business Support Network

**Kent Invicta Chamber** is the ultimate business support network in Kent. The Chamber provides Membership services, Business Advice, International Trade services and much more.

Covering an area of Kent that includes, Ashford, Dartford, Canterbury, Medway, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Sittingbourne, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells, the Chamber is perfectly placed to promote, support and facilitate business across the County.

### WHY HAVE OVER 1100 KENT BUSINESSES JOINED KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?

We offer your business:

#### Networking & Promotion

- Over 160 networking events per year - including Over 60 FREE
- Opportunities to show case your products and services at our B2B Exhibitions
- Free advertising in Chamber publications
- Free database of over 1100 Kent companies to promote your business

#### International Trade

- Discounted Export documentation service
- Advice and Guidance in seeking new markets

#### Cost Reduction

- A range of discount products and services designed to reduce your overheads and increase your bottom line

#### Training & Development

- Workshops, Seminars and Training Courses designed to keep you up to date, ahead of the game and better placed to drive your business forward

#### Business Support

- Business Advisory sessions to talk through your business proposals, aspirations and concerns in a private and confidential environment

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- Small board rooms through to large conference rooms
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- Ample free parking
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#### Representation

- A voice to champion your business concerns at all levels



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From only **53** p per day

Our members enjoy over 30 FREE or money-saving professional support services to help them grow their business.

The Ultimate Business Network

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# [www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk](http://www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk)



If you have a business story, we would like to hear from you. Telephone on **01303 817100** or email [editorial@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedia.co.uk).

For more business visit [www.businessforkent.co.uk](http://www.businessforkent.co.uk)

» See this month's Business and Professional Life section inside...

**KENT LIFE**

**BRIGHT FUTURE:** The development would breathe new life into the former coal mining site



## Former coal mine to lead new life in green energy

Development would bring together sustainable business and education in low carbon buildings while celebrating the site's heritage, writes **Joe Bill**

PLANS for a £40 million "sustainable business park" to open at the former Betteshanger colliery near Deal are set to be submitted by December.

The development, which could start as early as spring 2014, would see the vacated 121 hectare former coal mine site turned into a centre for green technology businesses.

The scheme is headed-up by Hadlow College with the plans also including an education centre and a visitor attraction looking at the important past the coal mine played in the area's history.

The funds for the project will include a £10m government development grant with the other £30m coming from private investors.

The site has been the target of much debate over many years with a number of projects touted as the way forward.

But Hadlow College's group director of finance, Mark Lumsdon-Taylor, believes the sustainable park will provide exactly what the community needs, with 35 per cent of proposed tenancies for the site already confirmed, subject to planning agreement.



He said: "The Betteshanger situation has been around for a great many years and I think time is important now to get a resolution and to turn it round."

"People want this to happen. This scheme brings together economic and social regeneration in the east

Kent region. It creates a world-class sustainable park for green technologies, environmental management and alternative energy as well as celebrating the historic aspect of east Kent mining heritage."

The scheme is supported by a partnership including Dover Dis-

trict Council, Kent County Council, East Kent Spatial Development Company and the Homes and Communities Agency.

Adds Mr Lumsdon-Taylor: "The centre will be an outstanding new

**Continued on page 48 »**

# Training, courses & careers

## FSB welcomes fresh plans to overhaul apprentice system

A LEADING local business organisation has welcomed planned reforms of the apprenticeship system which aim to make them easier for firms to understand and raise the quality of workers.

It follows the Richard Review into apprenticeships which called for the status and quality of the placements to be much more clearly defined.

Prime Minister David Cameron recently unveiled the new scheme which will see different grades awarded according to ability. The new 'super' apprenticeships will be offered by some 60 firms across the UK next year - running

alongside existing schemes.

Commenting on changes, Roger House, chairman for the Federation of Small Businesses in Kent and Medway, said: "Apprenticeships can transform a young person's life, providing access to bespoke training and often a highly skilled job that they may only have dreamt about."

"We welcome the Government's emphasis on developing a quality, focused and employer-driven system."

"We hope the reforms will strengthen and protect the image of apprenticeships which, over the years, has been damaged by constant change."



**BACKING:** David Cameron is convinced of apprenticeships' value

"Government must ensure small businesses maintain confidence in the apprenticeship scheme. More importantly, small firms need to keep believing and supporting it during this period of change."

"In order to get a system that works for both the apprentice and the business which employs them, the changes must be well thought

through and allow the smallest firms to engage."

"Piloting will mean Government has time to learn from problems that arise before it is fully rolled out across all sectors, however, the involvement and take-up of apprenticeships by small firms must be a critical success measure."

## Undergraduates' boost from RIBA

UNDERGRADUATES at the University of Kent are to once again benefit from a mentoring scheme run in association with the Royal Institution of British Architects (RIBA).

Students at the Kent School of Architecture (KSA) will gain from the RIBA Student Mentoring Scheme, open to third year undergraduates to support them during their studies and to help prepare them and provide guidance for their year out in practice. The mentors are RIBA chartered architects.

## Foundation lays roots of progress

THE first students of a pioneering foundation degree in engineering have graduated from the University of Greenwich.

After three years of academic and work-based learning, five students have completed their studies, with two going on to the BEng degree at the university's school of engineering in Medway.

» What is your business doing to help our young people? If you have a good news story, email [editorial@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedia.co.uk) or call **01303 817100**.

## Kent Invicta Chamber

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## « Continued from page 47

commercial and ultimately educational project for future global solutions in green technologies."

The site will include a bespoke enterprise complex, which will be known as the Betteshanger Sustainable Business and Commerce Park, housed in 6,000sq-m of low carbon buildings.

He said: "The strategy has always been that when you build a scheme like this you have to practice what you preach. So the buildings are being designed out of sustainable materials."

"The centre will also run off the power and electricity created there, anything else will then get filtered into the grid."

The site will veer in a different direction to the Discovery Park in Sandwich - the science park which has seen huge support on both a local and national level following the departure of much of Pfizer's operation - including a research and development centre run by Hadlow College again focused on the improvement of green energy.

Mr Lumsdon-Taylor added: "Green businesses and the education centre will all be based there together to bounce off of each other. The project is certainly a brave one and took an element of risk and an element of courage and we are providing an alternative educational provision to young people in the area as well."

The Betteshanger colliery was opened in the 1920s and was the largest of Kent's coal fields, including mining shafts of up to 2,000 feet. It was finally closed in 1989.

Mr Lumsdon-Taylor says the scheme will also create jobs in the area which was once thriving from work at the coal pits. With some private and public funding already secured the finance expert says phase one is ready to begin.

He explained: "It has been in the process a long time. It is anticipated that planning would be submitted shortly before Christmas, we have



**DESIGN:** An artist's impression of the site

an agreement with Dover District Council to turn that planning around very quickly so that we can be on site, in terms of development, by mid 2014, with the centre opening by September 2015."

The park's plans also include a new national visitor destination looking to encourage more than 100,000 visitors annually to showcase the county's mining heritage as well as the new sustainable energy production "set within an innovative landscape laboratory".

Mr Lumsdon-Taylor added: "It has been a lot of hard work since 2008, but this project shows it can be done. Things are only impossible until we make them possible."

Hadlow College is proving to be a remarkable success story, having turned its fortunes around to become one of the county's most pro-active education institutions.

Most recently, it opened the doors of its own free school - designed to highlight the county's rural economy backbone and inject a knowledge of land management alongside the National Curriculum.

The Hadlow Rural Community School caters for 11-16-year-olds and its first in-take - sited at the college's base near Tonbridge - was welcomed in September.

It plans to develop a new school building which should be ready by early 2015.





# Don't let the cost of debt recovery be losing a client

**William Charlesworth** explains how you can keep the cash flowing in without courting the courts

WITH cash still tight for many firms, the business environment remains litigious.

But before starting legal proceedings to recover money owed, Kent businesses need to think about the options available.

Debt recovery is a valuable tool for businesses but there is often a careful balancing act to consider: weighing the desire to take action against the debtor (through litigation, for example), versus adopting a more pragmatic approach (such as through mediation) with a view to protecting a potentially valuable business relationship.

Whatever the tipping point for initiating litigation or mediation, businesses need to appreciate the escalation process and the risks involved in bringing action.

Early mistakes can come back to haunt you so if you suspect a problem is brewing, think hard about what you put in writing.

Internal company emails are subject to disclosure rules and so are likely to end up in the other side's hands. Even if marked private and confidential, do not assume emails will remain that way.

Once the sides start corresponding with each other, it is easy to box yourself into a corner by inadvertently saying the wrong thing. But if you take advice early, your lawyer will guide you on what you should and should not say, leaving you more room to manoeuvre if the dispute escalates further.

The first step a business can take to recover its debt is to issue a Letter Before Action (LBA), demanding monies are paid by a deadline, failing which further action will follow. An LBA sometimes triggers payment, and in many cases will at least open a dialogue with the debtor.

The most common actions to take next are either serving a statutory demand or issuing a claim at court.

A statutory demand warns that unless the debt is paid in 21 days from the demand being served, then a petition could be lodged to wind up the debtor, using the unpaid demand as evidence the debtor is unable to pay its debts.



Alternatively, a claim in the County/High Court escalates the process to a point that the other side cannot ignore, and can be effective.

Mediation is often a cheaper alternative and has other advantages; for example, a working relationship with the debtor can often be preserved.

In approaching settlement negotiations and mediation, a party's position could be easily prejudiced by what is said or done, so businesses need to seek legal advice at an early stage.

Businesses can also protect themselves by having the right terms of business in place. These could include items such as an alternative dispute resolution clause providing that parties engage in mediation before proceedings are issued, saving time and cost, and a reservation of title clause – to protect a business' title to goods supplied but not paid for. Simple measures to implement, but very useful if matters do turn sour.

■ William Charlesworth is a dispute resolution solicitor at Kings Hill-based Vertex Law, part of Cripps Harries Hall LLP.w

# Commuters given more choice by coach service

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

AS rail fares into London continue to rise, commuters from west Kent appear to be voting with their feet by taking up seats on capital-bound coaches from their leafy villages.

A third coach hub has been started in Tonbridge by travel company Centaur Commute, which claims to take more than 300 passengers into the city and back every day.

The business, which looks to undercut rail ticket prices, sees early morning coaches stop off in village areas, meaning commuters avoid the need to drive to railway stations and pay for parking.

The group has already spread from its original base in Tunbridge Wells into Sevenoaks since its creation two years ago, and now a line will stop at Hildenborough, Cage Green, Higham Wood and Tonbridge town centre as well as other stops along the route on request.

The family-run business currently operates nine morning services and seven evening services to and from the city.

Managing director Matthew Sims believes the service provides a good alternative to getting to the centre of the capital.

He said: "Unlike the trains, passengers are guaranteed a seat without having to book. We also pick up very close to major residential areas and offer multiple drop-off locations in London. No more waiting in line at a railway station 10 miles from home. We've never missed a service since launching our first routes in 2011; that is hard to beat."

The company's Tonbridge expansion is part of a £1 million investment into the business, which gives passengers a choice of three embarkation times and non-stop service to Canary Wharf and into central London with drops at Tower Hill, Canon Street, Blackfriars, Embankment and Victoria Street.

In a bid to outdo the west Kent trains, the business has also invested in making sure the coaches are up-to-date with free Wifi, clean toi-



**EXPANSION:** Centaur Commute has started a new coach hub taking passengers to London

lets and air conditioning.

Mr Sims said: "It seemed logical to give people in Tonbridge their own exclusive service, especially considering the financial and time savings it will afford them."

"We're breaking passenger number records every day with our Tunbridge Wells service – proof that commuters are actively looking for new ways to avoid the expense and hassle of the country's degrading railway system."

The group has also said that should the Tonbridge service be a success they will look to expand further into the county.

Conservative MP for Tunbridge Wells Greg Clark has recently written to Kent rail franchise Southeastern in a bid to add more carriages to ease congestion.

The politician outlined a 10-point improvement plan for the service, which also includes reduced season tickets for part-time workers.

But Mr Sims believes commuters have already had enough of rail franchise failures.

"Our existing services in Tunbridge Wells have been a roaring success with year-on-year growth. This shows that commuters are savvy customers and will happily look elsewhere for transport options, no longer needing to put up with astronomically high rail fares."

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# Change your career, change a child's life

**F**OSTERING is possibly one of the most rewarding things you will ever do. Making a real difference to children's lives is a unique and immensely satisfying privilege.

However, a chronic shortage of foster-carers means that more committed people are needed to help change young lives.

Many people considering a career as a foster-carer think the local council is their only option. Most are completely unaware that independent fostering organisations even exist.

Next Step Fostering was established 25 years ago by Maureen and Alb Ward, who were foster-carers themselves and therefore had personal experience of caring for vulnerable children.

It remains a family company, with registered manager Neil McCarthy and director Lesley Ward's involvement stretching back 20 years.

Next Step Fostering has gained an outstanding reputation for providing high-quality child care. In the last three consecutive Ofsted inspections, Next Step achieved an outstanding rating across every standard in which it was assessed – probably the only independent fostering agency to achieve this.

It provides a range of fostering services through offices in Kent, London and the Thames Valley and works in partnership with many local authorities across the South East.

A national shortage of foster-carers

means that children who cannot live with their family are being moved away from their communities, resulting in a change of school, friends and religious contacts.

As a family-run company, Next Step Fostering is able to offer a personal, individual service to its foster-carers and children.

Supervision, support and training can be tailored to individual needs and foster-carers have an open invitation to approach Ms Ward directly to discuss any issues.

Fostering a child is not an easy task, but it is extremely rewarding and, thanks to the generous allowance Next Step Fostering pays, many people give up unfulfilling jobs to undertake a career in fostering, in which they feel they can really make a difference to young lives.

Mr McCarthy said: "People often worry they won't be suitable, based on things they have heard from friends or the media, but I would encourage anyone thinking about fostering to speak to us directly.

"We can answer all of their questions about the type of people we are looking for and what fostering is like."

If you are considering a career in fostering or simply want to learn more, Next Step Fostering holds regular drop-in information sessions.

Call 0845 603 8354, email [info@nextstepfostering.org](mailto:info@nextstepfostering.org) or visit [www.nextstepfostering.org](http://www.nextstepfostering.org) for details.



# Make a difference

**E**very 22 minutes a child comes into care and needs a foster-family. It is for this exact reason that Supported Fostering Services is dedicated to providing high-quality fostering placements through an excellent matching process.

"We work in partnership with foster-carers and local authorities to enable children and young people to grow, develop and achieve their full potential within a stable, caring family environment."

Having been established for 20 years, Supported Fostering Services is a family-orientated, non-profit making, charitable organisation and has been rated as outstanding by Ofsted.

It is a common misconception that foster-carers are required to be married, have children of their own or have their own home. In reality, though, the role of a foster-carer is open to anyone of any age, gender and ethnicity, providing they have a spare bedroom and want to make a difference in a child's life.

People from all walks of life can make excellent foster-carers.

Whatever their background or experience, they need one crucial quality: the ability to understand and meet the needs of looked-after children and young people.

Our whole assessment process is therefore geared to finding people with these specific qualities to give our children the best care.

We believe children should have the opportunity to live in a happy family environment that values their identity and background, as well as encouraging them to succeed and reach their full potential.



Supported Fostering Services is committed to providing a first-class support service to their foster-carers, with all carers undergoing continuous training and having access to 24-hour support.

"The quality of care is exceptional; children and young people are thriving within safe, loving households following excellent matching practice" – Ofsted, 2011.

Please visit [www.fostering.com](http://www.fostering.com) or alternatively email [enquiries@fostering.com](mailto:enquiries@fostering.com) for more information on what is involved and how to become a foster-carer.



## CHANGE A LIFE BECOME A FOSTER CARER

**Looking after children is a full-time job, so make it your career.**

Next Step Fostering is looking for people with the commitment, compassion and strength of character to foster children as a full time carer.

As an Ofsted outstanding foster care provider, we can offer up to £440 per week per child placed, along with the highest levels of training and support possible.

**make a difference  
to a child's life**



**Call 0845 603 8354**  
or visit [www.nextstepfostering.org](http://www.nextstepfostering.org)



## He needs you!



*People from all walks of life can Foster.*

Do you want to make a difference in a child's life?

Do you have the life skills to be able to support a child, teenager, a child with disabilities or a young parent needing guidance?

There are many roles to fostering and at Supported Fostering Services we are recruiting people from a wide range of back grounds to cover those needs. For more information call us for an informal chat, visit our website [www.fostering.com](http://www.fostering.com) or we can come to you.

SFS is a registered charity rated Outstanding by Ofsted



**01474 365500**

[enquiries@fostering.com](mailto:enquiries@fostering.com)





# 'We felt like a family from the start'

**A**doption changes lives. Giving a child who has been taken into care the chance of a stable, loving, permanent home can drastically improve that child's chances in life.

Sophie, 38, and Michael, 37, know all about that after adopting with Kent County Council (all names have been changed).

"We began talking about adoption two years ago and we contacted KCC in April 2012," said Sophie.

The couple were soon visited by a social-worker for a home assessment. They knew they wanted a child who had not had as much of a chance in life as they might have done – one who really needed them.

Sophie said: "One day, our social-worker mentioned that the council was holding an adoption activity day and asked if we would like to go along."

"Initially we felt very apprehensive. My husband and I talked about it and decided to go, have a bit of fun, play with the children and meet other parents. We had no expectations at all."

"The activity day was great. Although it was pretty daunting to start with, gradually we started to play with some of the little ones."

"As time went on, people seemed to lose their inhibitions and it became a bunch of 30-somethings running



around with the children and acting like five-year-olds.

"Michael and I were playing with a little girl on the hammock swing and all of a sudden a little princess appeared beside us. Michael asked her 'Do you want to go on the swing?' and she nodded, so he lifted her up and we pushed the two girls together,

playing games trying to dodge their feet and giggling.

"When the girl's foster-carer came up and said 'Come on, Lucy', she grabbed Michael's hand and put her other hand up to me. We swung her between us as we walked along and Lucy kept laughing and asking us to do it again. The foster-carer turned to

us with a look of shock on her face and said 'Did she speak to you?'."

"That's when she told us Lucy never talks to strangers and hadn't uttered a word all day."

Lucy had selective mutism, which means she rarely spoke – her nursery had never heard her talk and her social-worker of two years had barely

heard her say a few words. When the couple realised she had chosen to speak to them, they were overwhelmed.

"We feel that she chose us. When we got back to the car, we didn't even discuss it. We didn't need to, we just sat there crying," said Sophie.

"Lucy has been with us six weeks, but we felt like a family from the start."

"We knew she had difficulties with her speech – she has the vocabulary of a much younger child and would refuse to engage with people at all. But since she has been with us, she has just blossomed and is catching up with new words every day."

"We are just so proud of her. We can't believe how she has accepted us as her mum and dad and we feel so lucky."

"There is nothing better in the world than slumping on the sofa utterly exhausted at 9pm, with a pile of ironing waiting to be done, water sprayed all over the bathroom, toys everywhere and our little girl asleep in bed."

Last year, KCC more than doubled the number of children it has placed in loving homes but it needs even more people to come forward.

To find out about the next adoption event, on Saturday, November 16, or to learn more about how to adopt, visit [www.kentadoption.co.uk](http://www.kentadoption.co.uk).

## Adoption

### Find out about the rewards of adoption

#### Adoption information event

Saturday 16 November, 10.30am – 2.30pm  
Hilton Maidstone  
Bearsted Road ME14 5AA

Hear first hand from people who have adopted children in Kent and meet adoption professionals.

Talks start at 11am, 12 noon and 1pm. Please arrive ten minutes before these times to avoid disappointment. Refreshments and free parking available.

0845 330 2968

[www.kentadoption.co.uk](http://www.kentadoption.co.uk)

(Quote 1311NAW)

Follow us on Twitter @kent\_cc





On 28th October, Chrysalis Care held their Annual Awards ceremony, at the Marriot Hotel in Bexleyheath, offering testament to Chrysalis Care's ethos of 'working together', as staff, foster carers, children and young people and local authority social workers came together in celebration.

Chrysalis Care has a long standing, 'outstanding' reputation as a high quality foster care provider across all London Boroughs, The South East and Bedfordshire, since 1997 and the Awards evening was a fantastic opportunity for foster carers old and new to congregate in recognition for achievements for longevity of service and also commendation for achieving targets related to professional practice. Foster carers who are now confident, experienced and highly skilled, achieving awards for 5, 10, 12 and 15 years service, yet are still remembered as they embarked on their journey all of those years before.

Children and young people, standing tall and thriving, proud in their achievements, ranging from sporting success - running for the country, to gaining a coveted college course place, to massive leaps in English levels, to achieving 100% attendance at school, or becoming a school prefect.

This was our biggest award ceremony to date and we look forward to many more to come. Would you like to join in the celebration? Chrysalis Care is currently recruiting foster carers to join their team; if you have a sense of fun and a vibrancy for life, a spare room, time to give to a child or children and if you believe you have what it takes to become a foster carer, then please contact by phone: 0208 298 2800, by email: [info@chrysaliscare.org](mailto:info@chrysaliscare.org) or on line: [www.chrysaliscarefostering.org](http://www.chrysaliscarefostering.org)



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There are more than 68,000 children and young people in the UK that, for various reasons, cannot live with their own families. Each child in care needs a stable home environment with a carer or carers that can keep them safe and support them to live a healthy, happy and productive life.

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## Do you know your limits?

Last week, solicitor **Edward Foster** discussed the difference between surveys and searches. Here he examines whether searches play any role in establishing the legal boundaries of a property and the possible implications of a dispute.

**B**OUNDARIES and boundary disputes are an extremely complex area of property law. Boundaries are illustrated on the title deeds and the Land Registry plans. However, this does not make the illustrations definitive or legally binding.

Many people believe the boundary between theirs and the neighbouring properties is defined by the Land Registry plans. However, these are not intended to determine the actual line of boundaries. They are drawn generally and with thick lines separating the properties. It is therefore often difficult to ascertain boundaries and they cannot be relied upon to move or re-establish boundaries.

There is also a common misconception that the boundary runs in a straight line between the properties, but this is often not the case. Boundaries differ and vary over time, moving slightly or changing direction due to the removal and/or replacement of the physical boundary, agreements between previous owners of the property and various other factors.

The general lack of any definitive

boundary representation means most boundary disputes have to be resolved by the instruction of an expert (usually a surveyor) who will consider the title deeds of the properties concerned and various other indicators such as old photos, witness evidence and the actual property itself (including any old

**“Boundaries differ and vary over time, moving or changing direction due to removal or replacement of the physical boundary, agreements between previous owners of the property and various other factors”**

boundary markers such as posts) to determine where they believe the boundary is. Nevertheless, it is of course possible that one person can instruct an expert who determines

that the boundary is in a particular place only for the neighbour to find another expert who believes it is in fact somewhere else.

This 'grey area' is why a lot of these cases end up in the courts, leaving it to a judge to make a decision based on all of the evidence as to where the boundary is – the legal declaration by the judge as to the location of the boundary is only then definitive.

Litigation through the courts should be used only as a last resort. It is often better for most boundary disputes to be resolved through mediation or a 'meeting on site' of experts.

If you are thinking of moving a boundary, or you wish to object to your neighbour doing so, specialist advice should be sought. Disputes with neighbours should be avoided and boundary disputes can be arbitrary, stressful and last a number of years. Importantly, they can also cost thousands of pounds to resolve.

Accordingly, it is always wise to check the position with regards to your boundary before making any changes. A good property solicitor is the best place to start.



**Edward Foster** is senior partner at FostersLaw. If you have a question relating to this or any other matter, simply 'Ask Ed' by emailing him at [asked@fosters-law.co.uk](mailto:asked@fosters-law.co.uk)

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Back by popular demand, the mps Princess - exclusively chartered again by Good News Holidays - will host us in comfort and style.

Affectionately nicknamed 'the ugly duckling' here at GN Holidays - the mps Princess has a very fine interior indeed accommodating just 100 guests in comfort and style. There is a cosy lounge-bar and restaurant, all with panoramic views. Dinner is a real highlight with 4 courses served at your table each night.

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**Quote: HP5-2-KOS**

**9 May, 2014**

Monaco's Historic Grand Prix is a bi-annual extravaganza run on the Formula 1 course with just as much glitz and glamour as the modern-day event - but with the charming old cars dating from the 1940s

**Note:** Price subject to flight availability at time of booking - supplement may apply

to 1980s. We've included 2-day seated tickets for the Historic Grand Prix so you can get close to the action and enjoy the sights and sounds of this fabulous event. We fly from Gatwick to Nice, where we stay for 3 nights, and travel to Monaco on the scenic coastal railway.

**INCLUDED:** Escorted throughout aboard • Return Easyjet flights, with hand luggage, Gatwick to Nice • 3 nights B&B at a 3-star hotel in Nice - upgrade available • Return coastal train tickets to Monaco on 2 days • 2 day grandstand seated tickets for Historic Grand Prix qualifying and Race day • Return airport to hotel transfers

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By Steve Loader  
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

## Peugeot 308

PREVIEW

Price: from £14,495  
Driving appeal: not yet driven  
Image: ★★★★★  
Space: ★★★★★  
Value: ★★★★★  
Running costs: ★★★★★  
How green?: ★★★★★  
Best rival: VW Golf

» Read more of Steve's motoring reviews in...

KENT LIFE

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# Lion brand's leaner, lighter family hatch

MUCH rides on the all-new Peugeot 308 family hatchback.

The French marque has big ambitions to grow in the UK and globally and, despite a major lift from the excellent new 208 supermini, will be only too well aware of its long term failings in the sector above.

The current 308 is largely a re-packaged version of its 307 predecessor that, despite winning the coveted European Car of the Year award in 2002, was rapidly out-classed in one of the most competitive motor arenas there is.

Fortunately, the new 308 is likely to be a quantum leap ahead of what has gone before.

Using Peugeot's new EMP2 modular platform – expected to underpin a rush of new models from the brand – it is as technologically advanced as it is stylish.

Peugeot says it has made 116 patent applications during development of the platform, and the new 308 is lighter than its predecessor by an average of 140 kilos – equivalent to two adult passengers.

Added to a long wheelbase with short overhangs, that should pay dividends dynamically on both the handling and ride fronts – the former never being the old 307/308 platform's forte.

Prices will start at £14,495, with a typically diverse array of petrol and diesel engines, most with stop-start systems to keep CO2 emissions low.

There will also be a concise and familiar series of trim levels: Access,

Active, Allure and Feline, with standard kit including air con, remote central locking, cruise control with speed limiter, DAB digital radio, LED daylight running lights and Bluetooth connectivity.

As ever though, most customers trade up and the next trim level, Active, has some big plusses compared with most rivals: dual zone air con, rear parking sensors, integrated 9.7-inch touch screen – easily the largest in the sector – and sat nav.

The Feline flagship model also gets Peugeot's impressive Cielo full panoramic glass roof – a winning feature for many buyers of the brand's other key models.

But dealers are under no illusions about the task ahead. Catherine Websdale, sales manager at the Grand Garage Peugeot dealership in Cliftonville, Margate, told Driving:

"It's a very stylish car and extremely aerodynamic, which will really help economy and CO2 emissions, but the market seems increasingly more interested in funkiness than style and practicality.

"We've had a fantastic time with the 208. As soon as we saw it we knew it was a game changer and it's easily our best seller, so there's even more pressure on the 308 to deliver something similar.

"I'm pleased it's been pitched as more premium than before; the 208 has shown that there is a big demand for higher spec versions, and that gives us a potential edge against our main rival here, the Ford Focus, as well as the VW Golf,

Toyota Auris and Honda Civic."

The new 308 is available from launch in January with five petrol and diesel engines, with environmentally aware drivers drawn to the 1.6-litre HDi 92 diesel and its road tax exempt CO2 emissions of just 93g/km – average emissions across the entire Peugeot range were just 116.3g/km in May this year and the 308 will drive that still lower.

Following on in the spring, an innovative three-cylinder turbocharged petrol engine – the 1.2-litre e-THP with a choice of 110 or 130bhp – also makes its debut in the 308.

## Other view...

### the Petrolhead

Looks good, and something of return to old Eighties-style 'wheel at each corner' design. I bet a sporty GTi-style model arrives soon

### the Woman Driver

I have a weak spot for chic French designs and this is far better than the previous generations in this market sector

### the Eco-warrior

It has all the right environmental credentials, with the bonus that it is also good looking and likely to be cheap to run



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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.2 (11.2) - 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 38.7 (7.3) - 80.7 (3.5), Combined 32.1 (8.8) - 76.3 (3.7), CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 231 - 97 g/km.





## FirstGEAR

### Motoring news



### Junior Kuga due

FORD aims to launch its all-new EcoSport compact SUV early next year to attack rivals like the Vauxhall Mokka and slot in below the marque's own Kuga.

Would-be buyers must get orders in fast, though, as supplies are likely to be tight initially.

The newcomer will be unusual in having the spare wheel slung on the tailgate and a chunkier look than has been fashionable for SUVs lately.



### Picasso goes large

DELIGHTED with the reception for its classy five-seat C4 Picasso, Citroën launches that model's big brother in early 2014.

The seven-seat Grand C4 Picasso looks more dynamic than before, even though the previous car set new standards for family travel.

Highlights include '360° vision' – an exclusive for this segment – offering a bird's eye view around the car through the dashboard's integrated 12-inch HD screen.



### Even better value

HOW low can we go? That seems to be the question being posed by SEAT after slashing £2,500 off the entry price for its versatile Toledo saloon-cum-hatchback value star.

The Spanish arm of the VW group has also added £1,000 worth of extra equipment to mid-range Toledo SE models, including an upgraded infotainment system with colour touchscreen, integrated sat-nav, DAB digital radio and Bluetooth audio streaming.

SOME cars wow and some grow on you.

Volvo's mid-size executive saloon, the S60 (from £21,295), is definitely in the latter category.

When it arrived in 2010, the new-generation car was seen as pivotal for the Swedish marque after a wayward period under Ford ownership and ahead of takeover by the Chinese Geely group.

Three years on and Volvo is thriving, but the S60 has not only failed to set the market alight but also been overshadowed by the smaller V40 hatch-cum-estate, a far more dynamic car in looks, handling and customer appeal.

But then the V40 is a car to wow you in a way that the S60 won't do on the basis of a test drive. Given the luxury of a week, as I've had with the car, though, it will woo you... eventually.

The S60 does look good, with fluid lines and a wide stance that works even better with the highly recommended R-Design body kit – these models start at £27,795 – while the interior looks well organised and tough as old boots, softened by touches of uniquely Scandinavian design.

Despite Volvo's launch pitch, though, the front-wheel-drive S60 is more of an armchair to drive than sharper handling rivals like the rear-wheel-drive BMW 3 Series and Mercedes-Benz C-Class and front-driven Audi A4.

Indeed, the suspicion forms that, despite the flowing lines, the S60 shows Volvo retreating to its old safe house of solid build, dependability and exemplary safety; nothing wrong with all that, of course, but hardly the stuff to lure thrusting young executives.

These bright, but often not particularly discerning, young things are likely to see a Volvo key fob as something to hide in this instance rather than flash about.

# When picking a car for life...

It won't be love at first sight, but spend some time with the Volvo S60 and you'll soon realise what all the fuss is about, says **Steve Loader**

They would also have run a mile at the sight of the eco-friendly DriveE badges that used to adorn many Volvos but have been phased out; economy and low CO2 emissions now come as standard anyway on all but the most overt performance petrol models such as the S60 line-up's own performance flagship, the £38K S60 T6 R-Design Lux with its 302bhp and all-wheel-drive.

Economy and long-distance economy, comfort and driveability are virtues that shine through after a few days with mainstay S60 models

### Volvo S60 D3 SE Start/Stop

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Price:          | £26,945             |
| Driving appeal: | ★★★★★               |
| Image:          | ★★★★★               |
| Space:          | ★★★★★               |
| Value:          | ★★★★★               |
| Running costs:  | ★★★★★               |
| Reliability:    | ★★★★★               |
| How green?:     | ★★★★★               |
| Road tax:       | £30 (zero year one) |
| Best rival:     | BMW 3 Series        |

### Kent dealers

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such as the £26,945 mid-range D3 SE Start/Stop that was tested here.

The 134bhp five-cylinder diesel is smooth and lively with a 10.2-second 0-62mph time, and it is the car's unruffled manner that makes me think the S60 is an unsung hero of

the company-car user-chooser set, especially after a 320-mile round trip combining stop-start traffic jams and high-speed motorway cruising.

Official consumption figures are always optimistic and the combined total for our car is a whopping 65.7mpg, so, as ever, you reckon the testers are that well-known trio, Grimm, Andersen and Dahl – but the onboard computer showed figures consistent with an average just slightly below the official claim and without me really trying or worrying.

And everything works well for the driver; ergonomics has always been a Volvo forte and the car does its best to make the journey as effortless as possible, with comfy seats and a widely adjustable driving position.

The so-called flying centre console lightens up the solid dashboard, even if the stowage space behind is of dubious value.

There is also above-average rear legroom and a reasonable boot – anyone needing more space needs to check out its V60 estate sister.

A car is never for life, but if you have to put up with one for at least three years, then the S60 is hardly an onerous sentence.



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| Optional final payment                                 | £6359     |
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| Amount of credit                                       | £13820.79 |
| Total amount payable including optional final payment  | £17073.00 |
| Administration fee <sup>1</sup>                        | £0.00     |
| Agreed annual mileage (excess mileage charges apply)   | 6,000     |
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| <b>4.9% APR representative<sup>2</sup></b>             |           |

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Model shown: CITROËN DS3 THP 155 6-speed manual DSport (including optional extras).

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Official Government fuel consumption figures (Range): Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/mpg) & CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km); Highest: Citroën DS3 VTi 120 automatic DStyle 9.3/30.4, 4.9/57.6, 6.5/53.5, 150. Lowest: Citroën DS3 e-HDi 90 Airdream manual DStyle 91g 4.3/65.7, 3.2/88.3, 3.6/78.5, 91. MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions.

#### Advertiser's Announcement

# Local shoppers feel good with Citroën

Everything was coming up roses recently, when a team working on behalf of Wilmoths Maidstone appeared at various locations throughout the town.

Emerging from two gleaming Citroën DS models on Saturday 2nd November, the team distributed fresh red roses and toffee apples to passing pedestrians to raise a few smiles, and help generate awareness

of the Citroën range of vehicles, including the eagerly awaited DS3 Cabriolet.

John Halliday at Wilmoths Maidstone said: "It always feels blooming good to do something nice for people 'just because'.

"Our team had great fun meeting local shoppers, so who knows when we'll next be doing something similar?

"Keep your eyes peeled for the Wilmoths Maidstone DS3s near you!"

For more information about the Citroën range, including the DS3 and DS3 Cabriolet, visit **www.wilmothsmaidstone.citroen.co.uk** or call **01622 616140**.





# main dealer Servicing

## Don't gamble on modern day reliability of your car

IT'S hard to imagine after the economic doldrums of the past few years, but cars represent better value nowadays.

They are also more reliable and come with more equipment, but what hasn't changed is the need to keep up the service schedule and ensure repairs are carried out promptly and competently.

The best guarantee used to be a full main dealer service history, a reassuring record that everything required for the manufacturer's warranty had been carried out.

But this became seen as a restrictive practice and 2002 EU legislation made it illegal for manufacturers to insist on cars being maintained by their franchise network to keep the guarantee live.

It also meant that manufacturers had to make vehicle diagnostics information – crucial with increasingly sophisticated vehicles – specialist tools and updates available to independent garages and servicing centres.



Nevertheless, many car-buyers still prefer main dealer franchising and also think it is the best way to protect the part-exchange or second-hand value of the car, since used-car-buyers will usually pay a premium for a full main dealer service history on sophisticated models.

Sceptics argue that this perceived premium is wiped out by paying

higher main dealer service costs.

It is a point, but manufacturers and their main dealer networks have raised their game since the 2002 legislation. Indeed, with car sales and profits squeezed during the recession, dealers have become more competitive on servicing, created cost-effective service plans, enhanced customer service and specialised in ancillaries like tyres



### DON'T CUT CORNERS:

Sophisticated cars like the new Skoda Octavia need specialist care

and exhausts – normally the preserve of quick-fit centres.

They have also banked on the customer perception that main dealer service technicians know their cars best.

And happy service customers keep coming back, seeing the latest new models on the showroom floor – one day soon, they may buy again.

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# Homework pays off



**KEEP A CHECK:** Modern motors like the Alfa Romeo MiTo and Hyundai i30 need professional care, but there's no need to be careless yourself

MODERN cars are far more forgiving and comfortable than they were just a few years ago.

The downside is that much less can be done by the DIY mechanic; keeping the car in reliable, correct and safe condition is now best left to professionals and, of course, it costs.

Unfortunately, this also means that owners often ignore problems for too long and servicing is stretched beyond the recommended parameters, endangering the warranty and provenance of the vehicle when you come to sell.

So, the golden rules are:

- Maintain the service record to the letter. Get it serviced at the correct mileages or annually and have the servicing book stamped up, although some motor marques are switching to centralised digital records so that a car's servicing record is always available if required.
- Read the warranty thoroughly to ensure there are no possible pitfalls that could endanger the guarantee.
- Do act on any recalls from the manufacturer for checks or replacements, even if they do not relate specifically to safety – it will help maintain the warranty and future saleability of the car.
- Don't rely on the MOT as insurance of the car's safety and



reliability, even if it has just passed with flying colours. Problems can arise at any time and you should get them checked as soon as possible.

■ Check lights regularly for safety and legality. Get used to 'lighting up' in the garage or when you are nosed in or backed up to a wall.

■ Check tyres – including the spare – monthly, and that includes the pressures as listed in the handbook or the sticker often placed on the driver's-side door frame. Though the legal tread depth is 1.6mm, most motoring authorities advise replacement at 2mm, especially in winter when icy and wet conditions compromise grip.

■ Keep oil, windscreen-washer, coolant, power-steering, clutch and brake fluid levels topped up without over-filling, and make those checks

on level ground. Don't wait for warning lights to come on – it could be too late to prevent damage or compromise safety. Some cars have an interim set of warning lights, but these can be an unwelcome reminder if you are in the middle of a long journey and miles from a decent garage. Don't be caught out.

■ Replace wiper blades. There is little point in keeping the washer topped up if blades are worn or split. And if the windscreen is covered with bugs and grease, don't expect the washer and wipers to do the job for you – use a spray and elbow grease.

■ Shop around for servicing. Even if you are committed to main dealer servicing, you don't have to use the one where you bought the car – some are better on pricing and customer service than others.

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### Service

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>MOT</b><br>Available only on the UK mainland |            |
| All models                                      | <b>£39</b> |

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>Minor service</b><br>Every 12 months or 10,000 miles |             |
| All models  | <b>£129</b> |

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>Major service</b><br>Every 24 months or 20,000 miles |             |
| All models  | <b>£249</b> |

### Maintenance

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| <b>Brake fluid change</b> |            |
| All models                | <b>£45</b> |

|                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Rear brake pads &amp; discs</b> |             |
| All models                         | <b>£189</b> |

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Cambelt change*</b> |             |
| Fabia                  | <b>£299</b> |

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>Aircon service</b> |            |
| All models            | <b>£69</b> |

|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Front brake pads &amp; discs</b> |             |
| Fabia                               | <b>£189</b> |

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <b>All other models</b>                  | <b>£349</b> |
| Plus replacement water pump, if required | <b>£100</b> |

|                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Front or rear brake pads</b> |            |
| All models                      | <b>£99</b> |

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <b>Other models (not Fabia or vRS)</b> | <b>£209</b> |
| Fabia vRS / Octavia vRS                | <b>£249</b> |

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# Dealers' secret servicing weapon

FIXED service plans have revolutionised how main dealer servicing is perceived by customers.

These schemes were introduced originally by premium brands whose service costs were perceived as too pricey, taking advantage of an owner's natural reluctance to jeopardise the future value of the car by servicing outside the dealer network.

But it has been increasingly successful for more mainstream brands as they battle a burgeoning independent and quick-fit sector, only too happy to siphon off the steady churn of servicing work during the recession.

The plans are also flexible.

Initially, they were to cover the car's warranty period – transferable in the event of the car's sale – or on an annual basis, but many brands have followed up with monthly instalment options, recognising that drivers like to break down their motoring budget into more manageable chunks of money.

Best advice is to ask your main dealer about the menu of schemes available and get advice on the pros and cons of each one.

The blurb for such schemes uses the word 'policy' a lot, for that is virtually what they are: insurance policies for servicing and the vehicle warranty – a cost-effective but necessary part of the cost of running a car.



**FIX IT:** Servicing high-efficiency new cars like the rakish new Renault Captur crossover can be spread over a fixed plan; such schemes were originally only available for high-end cars but have now been rolled out across the market



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Fixed Price Servicing is only available for the following Nissan petrol-engined models: Pixo, Micra (K11, K12), Note, Almera, Primera, Tino, Qashqai and Qashqai +2, and the following diesel-engined models: Qashqai and Qashqai +2, X-Trail (T30 and T31), Navara (D40), and Pathfinder. All vehicles must be over three years old (from date of first registration) to qualify for Fixed Price Servicing. Please refer to the vehicle log book for your vehicle's first registration date. Fixed Price Servicing offer available at participating dealers only. Advertised prices include VAT and labour. Fixed Price Servicing offer must be mentioned at the time of booking a Fixed Price Service. Nissan reserve the right to modify the terms and conditions of the Fixed Price Servicing offer at its sole discretion at any time.

# Northgate Garage - Fixed Price Servicing

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- Check operation of lights
- Check washers and wipers
- Check engine oil
- Drain and refill with engine oil
- Fit new sump plug/washer
- Fit new engine oil filter
- Check brake pipes and lines
- Check exhaust system
- Inspect tyres and set pressures
- Report on tyre tread depths
- Visually check cooling system for leaks
- Check antifreeze level and protection
- Check drive belts (excludes cambelt)
- Check all fluid levels
- Check battery condition
- Check air con system, report only
- Visually check front brake pads and discs

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- Check operation of lights
- Check washers and wipers
- Check engine oil
- Drain and refill with engine oil
- Fit new sump plug/washer
- Fit new engine oil filter
- Check brake pipes and lines
- Check exhaust system
- Inspect tyres and set pressures
- Report on tyre tread depths
- Visually check cooling system for leaks
- Check antifreeze level and protection
- Check drive belts (excludes cambelt)
- Check all fluid levels
- Check battery condition
- Check air con system, report only
- Visually check front brake pads and discs
- Check suspension dampers
- Add screenwash and top up fluids
- Fit new air filter
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- Fit new sump plug/washer
- Fit new engine oil filter
- Check brake pipes and lines
- Check exhaust system
- Inspect tyres and set pressures
- Report on tyre tread depths
- Visually check cooling system for leaks
- Check antifreeze level and protection
- Check drive belts (excludes cambelt)
- Check all fluid levels
- Check battery condition
- Check air con system, report only
- Visually check front brake pads and discs
- Check suspension dampers
- Add screenwash and top up fluids
- Fit new air filter
- Check spark plugs/glow plugs
- Check rear brake pads/shoes
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# Main dealers hit back at quick fit

SPECIALIST 'fast-fit' centres have boomed as drivers try to save on exhausts, tyres, batteries, clutches, shock-absorbers and routine services, plus the annual MOT.

But main dealers have not been idle, reckoning that if car-owners are still using their service bays, they might consider realistic deals on tyres and exhausts, for instance, to ensure a time-saving one-stop shop.

Main dealers also guarantee only genuine manufacturers' parts are used, bringing the confidence of additional quality and reliability and the knowledge that this will be logged on the dealer/maker database.

And that same guarantee, plus realistic pricing, has also encouraged owners to have bodyshop repairs done by the franchise's own panel-beaters and paintshop or one that gets its seal of approval.

Main dealers have also borrowed from quick-fit rivals by offering menu pricing; a customer can choose what he wants and knows in advance what it will cost – avoiding motoring indigestion when the bill is presented.

Some dealers will even let you spread the cost via finance or servicing schemes covering several years. Others may offer a loyalty scheme with a tariff of cheaper prices



**QUICK?** If your car – like this Skoda Superb Estate or the Hyundai ix35 – needs a new tyre you might find your main dealer can beat a fast-fit centre

to keep owners of older and lower-value models on their books rather than see them defect to the non-franchised sector simply because they feel their car is no longer worth

paying top servicing prices.

Another trick borrowed from the quick-fit sector is longer working hours at main dealer service centres; dealers know many customers want

to drop off their car early on their way to work and then pick it up at the end of the day – a courtesy car may even be offered.

Bookings can often be made

centrally, too, so that customers living midway between two franchised dealers within the same group can pick the most convenient service slots available.

www.renault.co.uk



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|                  |               |
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| DEALER NAME      | DEALER        |

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**THE HISTORY PAYBACK:** Research shows that a main dealer-serviced new car, like this Volvo V40, will be worth more when you sell it, making the higher maintenance costs value for money

# Is dealer service history worth it?

ONCE you know the jargon of used-car classified ads, the importance of DSH, MDSH and FMDSH becomes clear.

For those yet to be initiated, they are all variations on the theme 'dealer service history', with FMDSH being the gold standard – full main dealer service history.

Does it matter? Well, a lot of new car-buyers think it does in order to protect future part-exchange or second-hand values of their motor,

since used car-buyers are usually happy to pay a premium for a complete and unblemished main dealer service history.

Critics might argue: "Ah, but you wiped out that perceived premium by paying more for your main dealer servicing while you owned the car."

However, this overlooks the more proactive stance taken by dealers lately: after seeing sales profits squeezed during the recession, they have cut prices and created service

plans to help those on a fixed budget.

In any case, third-party sources also support the wisdom of keeping your new car in the franchise family.

For instance, media motoring guru Honest John lived up to his name when responding to a BMW-owner considering whether to use an independent garage to maintain his premium car:

"After independent servicing, you will get a lower part-ex price from a BMW-dealer and it will go to auction.

If the car has a full dealer service history and is in retail condition, you will get a higher price. The difference will normally be worth more than you save on maintenance."

Motor Trade Insider website came up with the same advice after polling several professional motor traders who collectively bought 5,000 cars per year for main dealers:

"If you were asked to bid on a three-year old variant of one of your models with average mileage and

spec, would you value it any less if it had three KwikFit/Halfords/Tesco *etc* stamps against three stamps from the franchise represented by the car?"

"The Ford- and VW-buyers said they would value a car like this between £800-£1,000 less.

"The Jaguar-buyer said it would need to be £1,500 to £2,000 less and, amazingly, the BMW and Mercedes boys said they probably just wouldn't want to buy it!"

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# What's in a warranty?

EVERY new car comes with a warranty, but they have varied enormously over the past few years.

The standard used to be three years and/or 60,000 miles, but a recent outbreak of 'warranty wars' between car-makers has seen the years and mileages increase.

It shows car-buyers that it's worth shopping around, though some new deals also reinforce the old advice about checking the small print.

This will confirm exactly what the manufacturer will and will not pay for if the car breaks down within the agreed time period or mileage.

Which also makes it vital that the car-owner sticks to the rules by having the car serviced according to the warranty and acts on any recall notices for unforeseen faults and problems.

Some marques are more lenient about late servicing than others, but a common pitfall is to have the car serviced only by mileage, when most



manufacturers now insist that the car is serviced annually if the required miles are not being covered.

You don't have to use a franchised dealer for servicing – this stipulation was thrown out by EU legislation in 2002 – but do check for caveats in any case.

Be aware also that some marques offer the chance to extend the warranty for a reasonable cost or will 'wind back' the warranty clock to start again if you buy an approved used example from one of their dealers – not a bad option.



**KEEP UP TO DATE:** Make sure you stick to the service schedule (and read the small print) to maintain the warranty on a family workhorse, like the new second-generation Nissan Note or racy Peugeot 208GTi

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The closing date for applications is Friday, 15 November.

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### Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College are currently looking for people to join our busy Care and Community Service department at our Medway Campus. We currently have a vacancy within the following area:

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**Location: Medway Campus**

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This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Contact Details  
Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461  
Email [swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk](mailto:swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk)  
Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA  
Head of School: Mr S Cox MA

Swale Academies Trust Company  
No 734732  
Registered Office: Ashdown House,  
Johnson Road, Sittingbourne,  
Kent ME10 1JS



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required for busy full day care in Maidstone

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Disclosure (CRB) needed

Contact Alison on

**01622687878**

**alisonwa@aol.com**



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### **Teaching Assistant**

We require an experienced Teaching Assistant who is flexible, patient and able to work with different special needs, with pupils with a statement & support other pupils. Candidates must have Math & English to GCSE Grade C or equivalent. Hours: 37 hrs per wk, Mon - Sat, term time only inc training days. Salary: Dependant on qualification. Closing date: Midday 28th Nov Interviews: week commencing 2 Dec

An application form can be located on the school's website [www.doyrms.com](http://www.doyrms.com) emailing [reception@doyrms.com](mailto:reception@doyrms.com) or **01304 245023**

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Candidates must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post including checks with past employers and via the Disclosure and Barring Service.

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**Two Office Trainees required**

We are looking for two enthusiastic individuals to fit into our dynamic and established team.

The role involves answering and managing incoming calls, making refreshments, printing and document management, assisting with ordering materials and other business administration tasks.

Candidates familiar with the use of Microsoft Office, Adobe Reader with good attention to detail will be ideal.

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The successful candidate will be operating as part of our team in Kent managing a team of contracts managers, and our workforce across this area.

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- Previous experience in contract management (preferably) in roofing works and house building.
- High standards of technical and product knowledge.
- Good verbal and written communications skills
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office would be beneficial (basic training can be given).
- Clean driving licence.
- Health & Safety training to IOSH standard or higher would be advantageous
- Excellent benefits will be offered to the right candidate.
- Good organisational skills

**HGV Class 2 Driver / Yardman**

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This role involves travel between our various yards and numerous construction sites.


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- Load management and yard work.
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- Attractive pay package.

Please send a covering letter or e-mail with CV to

Careers team, Russell & Russell Roofing Ltd,  
Old Goods Yard, Station Road, Lenham, Maidstone Kent. ME17 2HR  
email [careers@russellandrussellroofing.co.uk](mailto:careers@russellandrussellroofing.co.uk)

Applications received after 22nd November 2013 will be considered but priority will be given to earlier applicants.

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## LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF HEARING HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 SECTION 119

Notice is hereby given that an Inspector will be appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to determine

Kent County Council

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 SECTION 53

(Public Footpath KH125 (Part) Thurnham)

Public Path Diversion and Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2012  
(Public Footpath KH125 (Part) Hollingbourne)

Public Path Diversion and Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2012  
(Public Footpath KH130 (Part) Hollingbourne)

Public Path Diversion and Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2012  
and will attend at:

The Lecture Theatre, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ

On Wednesday 11 December 2013 at 10.00am

To hold a hearing into the Order

The effect of the Orders, if confirmed without modifications will be to:

#### (1) (Public Footpath KH125 (Part) Thurnham)

**Divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered KH125** commencing from a point to the south of Cobham Oasthouse on Water Lane in the parish of Thurnham and running in an easterly and generally east south easterly direction for approximately 510 metres to rejoin the unaffected length of KH125 at GR 8195 5705. As shown between the points B and A on the Map attached to the Order referenced PROW/KH125/1388. **To a new length of public footpath numbered KH125** in the parish of Thurnham with a width of 2 metres commencing at the aforementioned point A and running in a generally south south-westerly direction through a woodland shaw for approximately 112 metres and then turning in a generally south westerly direction crossing pasture for approximately 190 metres to then run in a generally west north-westerly direction for approximately 320 metres across pasture to cross Water Lane at GR 8139 5698 and to then run in a generally north-easterly direction along the western side of the boundary hedge adjacent to Water Lane for approximately 260 metres to a new junction with existing Public Footpath KH124. As shown between the points A, C, D, E, F & G on the Map attached to the Order referenced PROW/KH125/1388.

#### (2) (Public Footpath KH125 (Part) Hollingbourne)

**Divert the entire width of that length of Public Footpath numbered KH125** Commencing from a point to the southwest of the property known as Whitehall in the parish of Hollingbourne (GR 82126 56987) and running in a generally east south-easterly direction through the garden of Whitehall for approximately 33 metres to its junction with Public Bridleway KH134. As shown between the points A and B on the Map attached to the Order referenced PROW/KH125/1369. **To a new length of Public Footpath numbered KH125** in the parish of Hollingbourne commencing at the aforementioned point A and running in a generally south-westerly direction for approximately 48 metres and then for approximately 31 metres in a generally east south-easterly direction to rejoin Public Bridleway KH134. As shown between the points A, C, D and E on the Map attached to the Order referenced PROW/KH125/1369. The new length of path will have a width of 2.5 metres, except immediately at point A where the width is 1.1 metres and from point D where the new route narrows to 1 - 1.4 metres as it proceeds generally north westwards for a distance of 3 metres (point E).

#### (3) (Public Footpath KH130 (Part) Hollingbourne)

**Divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered KH130** Commencing from a point approximately 75 metres to the south west of Ripple Manor (Point A GR 81964 56559) running in a generally north-easterly direction for approximately 66 metres and then for approximately 48 metres in a generally south-easterly direction to its junction with Public Bridleway KH134 (GR 82066 56559). As shown between the points A and B on the Map attached to the Order referenced PROW/KH130/1381. **To a new length of public footpath numbered KH130** with a width of 2 metres, commencing at the aforementioned point A and running in a generally east south easterly direction for approximately 92 metres to rejoin Public Bridleway KH134 at GR 82054 56533. As shown between the points A and C on the Map attached to the Order referenced PROW/KH130/1381.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

Any person wishing to view the statements of case and other documents relating to these Orders may do so by appointment at Kent County Council, Public Rights of Way and Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX during normal office hours. Please telephone Chris Wade on 01622 221511 to make an appointment.

Planning Inspectorate References: FPS/W2275/4/38, 4/39 & 4/40

Contact point at the Planning Inspectorate: Clive Richards,  
Rights of Way Section, Room 3/25, Hawk Wing, Temple Quay  
House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN.

Tel: 0303 4445502 Email: [clive.richards@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:clive.richards@pins.gsi.gov.uk)



## PLANNING



### THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

**Y13/1042/SH** - 136 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2BY  
- Installation of replacement uPVC windows to ground floor.

**Y13/1038/SH** - Lifboat Station Dungeness Road Dungeness Romney Marsh Kent - Erection of a temporary prefabricated kiosk for souvenir sales ancillary to the RNLI Lifboat Station.

**Y13/1096/SH** - The Old Stables Coolinge Lane Folkestone Kent - Extension to time limit of planning permission Y10/0492/SH for the erection of two 2-storey dwellings, change of use, erection of single-storey extension and alterations to existing former riding school building to form a single-storey dwelling, change of use and conversion of existing garage associated with former riding school to form stores associated with proposed dwellings, formation of vehicular and pedestrian accesses and car park.

**Y13/1006/SH** - Cheriton Road Sports Grounds Cheriton Road Folkestone Kent - Construction of a new external Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) with perimeter ball-stop fencing and floodlighting, together with access and outdoor storage for maintenance equipment.

**Y13/1093/SH+** - Saltwood House Rectory Lane Saltwood Hythe Kent - Listed building consent to remove brickwork to kitchen fireplace to re-instate original fireplace opening, apply lime plaster finish to the fireplace brickwork with paint finish, install wood burner to the fireplace and flue lining to the existing chimney.

**Y13/0926/SH#** - 31 - 35 Littlestone Road Littlestone New Romney Kent TN28 8LN - Section 73 application for the removal of conditions 19 and 23 of planning permission Y12/1056/SH for the use of ground floor office/workspace units as residential in connection with the units above.

**Y13/1051/SH** - 8 Radnor Cliff Folkestone Kent CT20 2JN - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising: felling of two Leylandii, one Pine, one Sycamore and one Ash, 1 metre reduction in height and laterals of an Oak and coppicing of a Willow, and followed by the planting of replacement trees.

**Y13/0947/SH** - Folkestone Primary Academy Academy Lane Folkestone Kent CT19 5FP - Section 73 application - variation of conditions 11 and 13 to allow for revised parking and pick up/drop off area accessed from Park Farm Road, together with minor external alterations to building approved under reference Y11/1133/SH

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to [planning@shepway.gov.uk](mailto:planning@shepway.gov.uk). Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

# - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

† - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (\*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning  
Shepway District Council

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## THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Town and Country Planning Act

#### Notice of Applications

**MA/13/1474/S** - 12, TONBRIDGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8RP - Change of use of office building to create 9no. residential units, including addition of single and two storey rear extensions. **Reason: 9**

**MA/13/1708/N** - LAND TO THE SOUTH OF, CROSS KEYS, BEARSTED, KENT - An application for outline planning permission for the erection of 39 dwellings including new access road, garaging and parking with the matters of access and layout to be considered at this time and all other matters reserved. **Reason: 6**

**MA/13/1764/S** - COURT LODGE PARK, LOWER ROAD, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0PD - Internal and external alterations including a new entrance conservatory, a lean-to loggia, the squaring off of the angled corner to the existing cottage and the lowering of the roof ridge to allow for a new roof lantern. **Reason: 1**

**MA/13/1765/S** - COURT LODGE PARK, LOWER ROAD, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0PD - Listed building consent for internal and external alterations including a new entrance conservatory, a lean-to loggia, the squaring off of the angled corner to the existing cottage and the lowering of the roof ridge to allow for a new roof lantern. **Reason: 3**

**MA/13/1766/N** - ASH HOUSE, OLD ASHFORD ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2PX - An application for the erection of a single storey rear extension. **Reason: 1, 2**

**MA/13/1767/N** - ASH HOUSE, OLD ASHFORD ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2PX - An application for listed building consent for the erection of a single storey rear extension. **Reason: 3**

**MA/13/1770/N** - BRUNGER FARM, CRUMPS LANE, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1EU - Two storey rear extension. **Reason: 1**

**MA/13/1778/N** - 2, SMARTS COTTAGES, THE GREEN, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4EA - Erection of a single storey rear extension and garden wall to rear. **Reason: 2**

**MA/13/1793/S** - 3, MAIDSTONE ROAD, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2QH - Change of use of building from D1use to D1 (chiroprody clinic) use and C3 (residential) use. **Reason: 1, 2**

**MA/13/1797/N** - LORDSWOOD URBAN EXTENSION, GLEAMINGWOOD DRIVE, LORDSWOOD, KENT - Outline application with all matters reserved to develop the site for residential (approximately 89 dwellings) with open space, access road and biomass combined heat and power plant. **Reason: 6, 9**

**MA/13/1818/S** - HOME FARM, STAPLEHURST ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9BU - Erection of a 2m closeboard astaple fence inside existing hedgerow and erection of 1.2 high stock fence around existing pond. **Reason: 1**

**MA/13/1820/N** - LAND WEST OF 6 BANK COTTAGES, PILGRIMS WAY, HOLLINGBOURNE, KENT, ME17 1UP - Change of use of land to provide an additional parking space and associated engineering works. **Reason: 1, 2**

#### Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Application affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.
- 9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.



Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **24th November 2013**, quoting the application number.

**Rob Jarman**, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 10th November 2013.

## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

#### LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS

#### CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

**DOV/13/00895** Erection of a timber framed garage with two bay carport  
**Each End House, Each End, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, CT3 2BZ** **ARW**

**DOV/13/00911** Erection of a detached garage  
**Tramonto, Hammill, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, CT13 0EP** **ARW**

**DOV/13/00790** Alterations to existing shop fronts and erection of a first floor extension  
**36, 37 and 38, London Road, Dover CT17 0SS** **CAF**

**DOV/13/00880** Change of use from agriculture to nature reserve to form wetland and dry grassland habitats. Hydrological management measures to include clay plugs, sluices, weir gate and pipe work; formation of shallow excavations to allow water to pool within field areas in winter and spring  
**Lydden Valley, Willow Farm, RSPB Reserve, Worth, Sandwich, CT14** **MAR**

**DOV/13/00647** Retrospective change of use from retail (Use Class A1) to mixed use retail (Use Class A1) and cafe (Use Class A3)  
**4 Victoria Road, Deal, CT14 7AP** **CON**

**DOV/13/00908** Variation of condition 1 of planning permission DOV/07/00795 to allow permanent residential use and alter occupation restrictions; Removal of condition 2 of planning permission DOV/07/00795; Variation of condition 3 of planning permission DOV/07/00795 to allow the stationing of 3 caravans of which can be a mobile home; Variation of condition 10 of planning permission DOV/07/00795 to allow development to be carried out in accordance with the revised proposals submitted as part of this application. (Application Under Section 73)  
**Cobb's Yard, Longmete Road, Preston, Canterbury, CT3 1DN** **ARW**

**DOV/13/00798** Division of property into three separate units, rear extension and internal alterations  
**97 & 97A, High Street, Wingham, Canterbury** **LCN**

#### Reason for Advert Codes:-

- CON** - Within Conservation Area **CAF** - The proposal affects a Conservation Area  
**ARW** - Affects a Public Right of Way  
**MAR** - Major Development & affects a Public Right of Way  
**LCN** - Listed Building in a Conservation Area

**Some applications are not publicised in this list.** All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent within 21 days marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website [www.dover.gov.uk/planning](http://www.dover.gov.uk/planning) or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

**Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. Any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.**

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

### Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

**13/03106/LBC** **Springhill Oast Standen Street, Benenden**

- Listed building consent-Conversion of ground floor including the attached stable block and the attic to the oast into additional residential space (LB)

**13/03025/FULL** **Flat 3 56 Dudley Road, Culverden**

- Replacement windows (CA)

**13/03154/FULMC** **Natwest 5 St Johns Road, Culverden**

- Change of use from Class A2 (Bank) to A3 (Cafe) on ground floor and A1 (Shop) on first floor; Retention of Office on second floor; Use of basement for storage; Use of store room on ground floor as cycle repair workshop; External seating area, car park, landscaping and minor changes to elevations (CA)

**13/03171/MOD1** **Land East Of Bankfield Way, Goudhurst**

- Variation of Section 106 Agreement in order to allow a mortgagee exemption clause (TW/91/0894 refers) (PROW)

**13/03161/FULL** **Mascalls Secondary School Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood**

- Two storey extension to Block A and retention of existing car parking area-Removal of Conditions 9 and 12 of planning permission TW/13/00925/FULMJ (MAJOR)

**13/02674/LBC** **42 Opera Colonnade Monson Road, Park**

- Listed building consent-replacement of all sash windows like for like (LB)

**13/03128/HOUSE** **Dunorlan House Dunorlan Park, Park**

- Removal of existing windows/doors to south east and north east elevations and replaced with frameless double-glazed windows/doors including removal of stained external vertical boarding and replaced with second hand grey slates (LB) (CA)

**13/03169/FULL** **Land Adjacent Hawkwell House Maidstone Road, Pembury**

- Retrospective-Construction of pond/reservoir (PROW)

**13/03079/FULL** **Sherwood Community Centre & YMCA Sports Building Greggs Wood Road, Sherwood**

- Variation of condition 15 of TW/05/00857 relating to vehicle parking space-re-allocate under-utilised car parking spaces for Greggs Wood Phases 2 and 3 (MAJOR)

**13/03166/HOUSE** **22 Park Road Southborough, Southborough Town Council**

- Demolition of existing double garage and store; Erection of double detached garage with room over (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website ([www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk)), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to [planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk) or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman

Head of Planning Services,  
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council  
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

**Dated: 09 November 2013**



### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

#### PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.

#### REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 25 NOVEMBER 2013.

**SW/13/1167:**

Proposed re-siting of previously approved barn, erection of four new stables with tack room and a new hay barn - Land on the corner of Meresborough Lane & Spade Lane, HARTLIP;

**REASON 3**

**SW/13/1301:**

Proposed internal and external alterations - 44 Norman Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

**SW/13/1303:**

Amendment to existing consent to include provision of additional window to flank wall at first floor level and change of design to louvre rear French windows to bi-fold doors - 56 Abbey Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

**SW/13/1321 & SW/13/1322:**

Alterations to The Old School House including reduction of ground levels, replacement windows with the reinstatement of the hall and oriel window and removal and installation of internal partitions. Demolition and replacement of garage and workshop - The Old School House, Hillside Road, STALISFIELD; **REASONS 2 & 4**

**SW/13/1340 & SW/13/1341:**

The installation of 1 x 2.4m and 1 x 1.2m dishes on the existing communication mast at Dunkirk. Together with a small equipment cabinet and ancillary equipment. This application is to replace the 2 x 1.8m dishes that obtained planning and listed building consent on the 27th September 2013 - SW/13/0880 and SW/13/0885 - MOD Dunkirk, Courtney Road, DUNKIRK; **REASON 2**

**SW/13/1344:**

Proposed single storey side extension with ground floor infill to provide 4 resident's rooms with associated facilities - Mill House Residential Home, Salters Lane, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

**James Freeman**  
Head of Planning

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### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

#### NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 (AS AMENDED)

**KCC/CA/0317/2013 - Proposed development at Oldridge Wood Lagoons, Swanton Lane, Off Canterbury Road, Littlebourne, Canterbury, Kent, CT3 4AX.**

Starnes (Canterbury) Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for variation of conditions 2 (restoration period), 10 (hours of HGV movements) and 11 (traffic management) of planning permission CA/12/606 for the infilling of open lagoons formally used for the disposal of tannery wastes.

You may view this application at Canterbury City Council, Canterbury Main Office, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW.

**KCC/DA/0226/2013 - Proposed development at Eastern Quarry, off Watling Street, Swanscombe, Kent.**

OCL Regeneration Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for an application for temporary consent (5 years) for the erection and operation of a construction and recycling facility for concrete and road base/planning and ancillary plant storage areas and reception, weighbridge office and parking.

You may view this application at Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR.

**KCC/TH/0305/213 - Proposed development at Bromston Primary School, Rumfields Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 2PW**

Kent County Council Property & Infrastructure Support is applying to Kent County Council Planning Applications Group for planning permission for the proposed erection of a new two-storey classroom block, revised parking layout to include 35 car parking spaces including a new grass-crete staff car park to be accessed via Chestnut Drive, provision of a dedicated fire brigade access, the removal of 3 temporary classroom buildings and various other external and internal alterations to the existing school buildings.

You may view this application at Thanet District Council, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1XZ.

#### NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13(3) OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

**KCC/SH/0381/2011 - Proposed development at Dungeness Borrow Pit, Dungeness, Romney Marsh, Kent, TN29 9NA.**

EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd and the Environment Agency has submitted further environmental information under regulation (22) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 in support of application reference KCC/SH/0381/2001 for shingle recycling for the purpose of flood defence. The original application was accompanied by an environmental statement. The proposed development is within the Dungeness Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance. The proposed development also affects a public right of way.

You may view copies of the further information at Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY.

Members of the public may obtain copies of the original environmental statement and further information submitted from Halcrow Group, Burderop Park, Swindon SN4 0QD Tel: 01793 816360 so long as stocks last, at a reasonable charge.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at [www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications](http://www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications) or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to [planning.applications@kent.gov.uk](mailto:planning.applications@kent.gov.uk) or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough/City Council website.

**Sharon Thompson**

**Head of Planning**

**Applications Group**

**Kent County Council**

**Dated: 10th November 2013**



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**PROW - IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY****NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH CC17 IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY**

**PUBLIC FOOTPATH CC17 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath CC17, between Broad Oak Road and Kemsing Gardens from the 5th November 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before January 2014.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Kemsing Gardens, Headcorn Drive and Farleigh Road and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Louise Adams  
 Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/countryside\\_access/traffic\\_regulation\\_orders.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx)

**NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB487 IN THE PARISH OF CHARTHAM**

**PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB487 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath CB487, between its junction with Ashford Road and its junction with Public Footpath CB463A from the 7th November 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before January 2014.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Louise Adams  
 Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/countryside\\_access/traffic\\_regulation\\_orders.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx)

**NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB509 IN THE PARISHES OF THANINGTON WITHOUT AND HARBLEDOWN & ROUGH COMMON**

**PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB509 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath CB509, between its junction with Public Footpath CB456 and Public Bridleway CB521A at NGR TR123 576, from the 23rd November 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before January 2014.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Louise Adams  
 Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/countryside\\_access/traffic\\_regulation\\_orders.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx)

**PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE****NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH KH597 IN THE PARISH OF HEADCORN**

**PUBLIC FOOTPATH KH597 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath KH597, between its junction with KH599 and its junction with KH600 from the 4th November 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before January 2014. The path is to be closed because works are planned on the level crossing and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Katie Cullen  
 Contact Centre no. 0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/countryside\\_access/traffic\\_regulation\\_orders.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx)

**NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH KM295 IN THE PARISH OF STAPLEHURST**

**PUBLIC FOOTPATH KM295 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath KM295, between its junction with KM296 and Couchman Green Lane from the 22nd November 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before January 2014.

The path is to be closed because works are planned near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via KM296 and Couchman Green Lane and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Katie Cullen  
 Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/countryside\\_access/traffic\\_regulation\\_orders.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx)

**PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING****NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

**(PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR502 (PART) AT WATERINGBURY) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2013**

The above named Order made on 18th October 2013 under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered MR502 which commences at NGR TQ 6740 5380 (point A on the Order plan) and runs west for 8 metres, then south-south-west for 35 metres, and then north-west for 137 metres to its connection with Danns Lane at NGR TQ 6727 5386 (point B on the Order plan); it will add a new length of public footpath numbered MR502 with a width of 3.5 metres, which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs north-west to west for 150 metres to the aforementioned point B.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, West Malling Kent, ME19 4LZ or at the Kent County Council, PROW & Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there at the price of £5.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Mrs Maria McLauchlan at the Kent County Council (address as below). (Tel: 01622 696871) (email: [maria.mclauchlan@kent.gov.uk](mailto:maria.mclauchlan@kent.gov.uk)) not later than 9th December 2013. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

**NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR228 IN THE PARISH OF WROTHAM**

**PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR228 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath MR228, between its junction with Kemsing Road and NGR TQ588 587 from the 4th November 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because house demolition works will be carried out adjacent to it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is around an adjacent field and will be clearly signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Michelle Snoding  
 Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/countryside\\_access/traffic\\_regulation\\_orders.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx)

**Public Rights of Way and Access Service**  
**Kent County Council**  
**Invicta House**  
**County Hall**  
**Maidstone**  
**Kent**  
**ME14 1XX**

**Dated: 10th November 2013**

*This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.*

**For further information, please contact**  
**Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service,**  
**on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)**  
**or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess](http://www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess)**

**Kent**  
**County**  
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**[kent.gov.uk](http://kent.gov.uk)**



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**HIGHWAYS – ASHFORD AREA****THE STREET, BRABOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of drainage improvement works to alleviate local flooding, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of The Street, Brabourne, Ashford.

The Street will be closed between the junction of Canterbury Road and Parsonage Farm.

The closure is planned to commence from Monday 11 November 2013 for up to 5 days. Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

The alternative route is via The Street, Stock Lane and Pilgrims Way.

**HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA****B2205 CHESTFIELD ROAD, SWALECLIFFE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To enable bridge refurbishment works to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of B2205 Chestfield Road, Swalecliffe.

Chestfield Road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge, with no access for through traffic between the junctions with (Old) Thanet Way and St John's Road.

Closures are planned to commence from Monday 11 November 2013 for up to 6 weeks.

Closures will be overnight from Sunday night to Thursday night each week (Monday to Thursday the first week), between 20:00 hours through until 05:00 hours each night.

The alternative route is via A2990 (Old) Thanet Way, B2205 Greenhill Bridge Road, Sea Street, Whitstable Road, Colewood Road and St John's Road.

It is possible that day time closures may also be needed on certain Sundays, which will be notified should they become necessary.

The works are weather dependent, and prolonged periods of adverse conditions may extend the planned timescale.

**DERRINGSTONE STREET, BARHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow sewer repair works to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Derringstone Street, Barham.

Derringstone Street will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Railway Hill.

The closure is planned to commence from Monday 11 November 2013 for up to 2 weeks.

Access will remain from Valley Road, but there will be no through access. The alternative route for through traffic is via Railway Hill, Green Hills and Valley Road.

Due to the nature of these works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

**VARIOUS ROADS, RURAL CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER NOVEMBER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow carriageway patching works to be safely carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on various roads in the rural part of the Canterbury area.

Closures are planned to commence from 25 November 2013 and are between 07:30 hours and 16:30 hours each day.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

**WESTWOOD ROAD, KINGSTON** closed between the junctions with Jesses Hill and Turks Hill

**25 & 26 November**

Alternative route via Westwood Road, Marley Lane and Turks Hill

**COLDHARBOR ROAD, BRIDGE** closed from junction with industrial estate to Bramling Road

**26 & 27 November**

Alternative route via Bridge Hill, High Street, Town Hill, Bifrons Hill, School Lane, Adisham Road and Bramling Road

**WOODLANDS ROAD, ADISHAM** closed between the junctions with The Street and Bramling Road

**27-29 November and 2 & 3 December**

Alternative route via Bramling Road, Adisham Downs Road, Pond Hill and The Street

**COLE HILL, BARHAM** closed between the junctions with Covet Lane and Railway Hill

**3 & 4 December**

Alternative route via Covet Lane, Valley Road and Greenhills

**HIGHWAYS - GRAVESHAM AREA****CLIVE ROAD, BARROCK ROW, DARNLEY ROAD (PART) GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of the movement of an abnormal load, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Clive Road, Barrock Row, Darnley Road (part) Gravesend, on or after 16th November 2013

The restrictions will apply to the following streets when the appropriate signage and traffic management is in place.

The restrictions will apply between the following dates and times

Sat 16th November 2013 20:00hrs to Mon 18th November 2013 04:00hrs

Sat 30th November 2013 20:00hrs to Mon 2nd December 2013 04:00hrs

Sat 21st December 2013 20:00hrs to Sun 22nd December 2013 08:00hrs

Sun 5th January 2014 20:00hrs to Mon 6th January 2014 08:00hrs

The diversion route for vehicles will be Railway Place – Windmill Street (southbound) – Lord Street – Woodville Place – Wrotham Road (southbound) – Old Road West – Lennox Road – The Overcliffe

**PARROCK ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of the lining improvement scheme, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Parrock Road, on or after 26th November 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Leith Park Road to Bronte View.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via Old Road East, Wrotham Road, A227, A226 West Street, Crooked Lane and Lord Street.

**HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA****LOWER FANT ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of a new water connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lower Fant Road, on or after 25 November 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 48.

The alternative route is via Upper Fant Road, Lower Fant Road.

**BIMBURY LANE, STOCKBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because it is necessary to install a new water main, Kent County Council has made an Order to prohibit through traffic on Bimbury Lane from A249 Sittingbourne Road to outside Bimbury Cottage on or after 04 November 2013 until 20 November 2013 or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via A249 Sittingbourne Road, Chalky Road, South Street Road.

**VARIOUS ROADS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

To allow a programme of carriageway patching works to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to restrict traffic on various roads, as shown below.

The Order will become effective on or after **17th November 2013** for up to 18 months, or until the works have been completed.

Planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 14 days in advance. Road closures will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place.

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule shown below. Some minor modifications may be made to dates and duration of works, to be advised once known.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates. Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled, as advised locally and signposted on site.

**SCHEDULE****MAIDSTONE**

**GRANVILLE ROAD** – whole length **17th November 2013**

Alternative route via Boxley Road, Well Road, Fisher Street, Peel Street

**WESTFIELD SOLE ROAD, BOXLEY** – whole length **18th November 2013**

Alternative route via Harp Farm Road, Lidsing Road

**ALLEN STREET** – whole length **2nd December 2013**

Alternative route via Hedley Street, Holland Road, St Luke's Avenue

**BARTON ROAD** – whole length **7th December 2013**

Alternative route from the junction with St Philips Avenue via St Philips Avenue, Waterloo Street and from junction with A229 Upper Stone Street via A229 Upper Stone Street/Loose Road, Park Way, West Park Road, Upper Road.

**HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA****CARTERS HILL, SEAL, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of a new gas service to be installed, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Carters Hill, Seal, Sevenoaks, on or after 11th November 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Little Bowshot and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Underriver House Road.

**EGGPIE LANE, WEALD, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of BT works to access an overhead network cable to restore customer service, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Eggpie Lane, Weald, Sevenoaks, on or after 25th November 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Scabharbour Road for a distance of around 600 metres. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Egg Pie Lane, Philpots Lane, Scabharbour Road and vice versa.

**WHITE HOUSE ROAD, WEALD, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of a new connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on White House Road, Weald, Sevenoaks, on or after 25th November 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of White House Lane and Rycroft Lane and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Rycroft Lane, Gracious Lane (Chevening), Gravel Pitt Lane and vice versa.

**HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA****CHURCH LANE, NEW ROMNEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a water main to a new development, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on part of Church Lane, New Romney, as follows.

Church Lane will be closed from 'Owlers' southwards for the remainder of the road.

Weekday closures are planned to commence from 25 November 2013 for up to 2 weeks. The road will be closed from Monday morning through until Friday afternoon both weeks, re-opening at weekends.

There is no alternative route as the road is a *cul-de-sac*; every effort will be made to allow any essential access when it is safe to do so.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY) (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 4) ORDER 2013**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT KENT COUNTY COUNCIL HAS MADE THE ABOVE NAMED ORDER UNDER SECTIONS 1(1), 2(1) TO (3), 3(2), 4(1) AND (2) OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, AND OF ALL OTHER ENABLING POWERS, AND AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE CHIEF OFFICER OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 20 OF SCHEDULE 9 TO THE ACT:**

The effect of the Order revokes the One-Way Streets Traffic Regulation Order that applies to Tram Road, and restores the road to a two-way flow for its entire length. This is to facilitate traffic flow and reduce town centre congestion.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by this Order and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Javelin Way Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QV during normal opening hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make an application to the High Court for this purpose.

**HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA****CRYALLS LANE, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Cryalls Lane, Sittingbourne.

Cryalls Lane will be closed between the junctions with Wises Lane and Brisbane Avenue.

The closure is planned to commence from 11 November 2013 for up to 5 days.

The alternative route is via Wises Lane, A2 London Road, Adelaide Drive and Brisbane Avenue.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

**STATION ROW LEVEL CROSSING, TEYNHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER NOVEMBER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Station Row Level Crossing, Teynham.

Station Row will be closed at the Level Crossing.

The planned closure is on Sunday 17th November from 00:30 hours until 09:00 hours.

There is no alternative route. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so.

**THE STREET, BORDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on The Street, Borden.

The Street will be closed in phases from the junction with Coppins Lane working towards Wises Lane / Pond Farm Road.

Closures are planned to commence from 18 November 2013 with an estimated completion mid-January 2014. Access will remain from either direction up to where the road is closed, but there will be no through access.

The alternative route for through traffic is via Pond Farm Road, Sutton Baron Road, Wrens Road, Hearts Delight and Bannister Hill.



**For further information, please contact**  
**Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,**  
**on 0300 333 5539 (local rate)**  
**or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)**



## HIGHWAYS

The various side roads joining The Street will be kept open as the works progress.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours, but the road will be re-opened over the Christmas period.

### HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

#### BELMONT ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

#### THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow carriageway repairs to be safely carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Belmont Road, Broadstairs.

Belmont Road will be closed beyond the junction with Wardour Close.

Closures planned to commence from 25 November 2013 for up to 5 days, between 09:00 hours and 16:00 hours each day.

There is no alternative route as the road is a *cul-de-sac*. Access will be maintained whenever it is safe to do so, but there are likely to be some delays and certain times when access is not possible, due to the nature of the works and the use of machinery.

#### CONVENT ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

#### THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable works to be carried out to install a new electricity supply, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Convent Road, Broadstairs.

Convent Road will be closed in the vicinity of North Foreland Golf Course.

The closure is planned to commence from 12 November 2013 for up to 8 days.

Access will remain from either direction up to the point of closure, but there will be no through access.

The alternative route for through traffic is via George Hill Road, Whiteness Road and Kingsgate Bay Road.

Access to the Golf Club and Nursery will be from the Kingsgate Bay Road direction, using the above diversion.

#### EPPLE ROAD, BIRCHINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

#### THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow bridge strengthening and refurbishment works to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Epple Road, Birchington.

Epple Road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The closure is planned to commence from 25 November 2013 for up to 5 months, or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Cross Road, Epple Bay Road, Rossetti Road, Station Approach, Alpha Road and Epple Road (also including Minnis Road and Sandles Road in reverse due to the one-way system).

### HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

#### BUTCHERS LANE, MEREWORTH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

#### THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new electric cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Butchers Lane, Mereworth, on or after 11 November 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Beech Road and Kent Street.

The alternative route is via Beech Road, Beaufighter Road, A228 Malling Road and The Street.

#### EAST STREET, ADDINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

#### THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a new gas supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on East Street, Addington, on or after 12 November 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside East Street Farmhouse.

There is no alternative route.

#### SANDY LANE, RYARSH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

#### THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to the railway bridge, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sandy Lane, Ryarsh, on or after 11 November 2013 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Fartherwell Road, Teston Road, Church Road, A20 London Road.

### HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

#### JARVIS LANE, GOUDHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

#### THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT Openreach laying duct in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Jarvis Lane, Goudhurst, on or after 11 November 2013 for up to 15 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from B2084 Chequers Road to Mile Lane.

The alternative route is via Mile Lane, A262 Cranbrook Road and B2084 Chequers Road.

John Burr  
Director of Highways & Transportation  
Kent County Council  
Invicta House  
County Hall,  
Maidstone  
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 10<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Kent  
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For further information, please contact  
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,  
on 0300 333 5539 (local rate)  
or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)

## PLANNING

# Planning applications



Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010  
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995  
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990  
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990  
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

- CA/13/01599/FUL: Upper Thruxted Farm, Penny Pot Lane, Petham, CT4 7HA Conversion of stable building into dwelling incorporating increase to roof height and single-storey extension and provision of garden area. **Applicant: Ms H Rabbatts** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
- CA/13/01787/LB: Flat 2, 28 High Street, Canterbury To fit secondary windows behind the existing sash windows. **Applicant: Mr Al Alami** Reason: Work to a listed building.
- CA/13/01881/FUL: Flat 5, Salisbury House, St Thomas Hill, Canterbury Replacement of single-glazed timber windows with double-glazed uPVC windows to ground floor flat. **Applicant: Mr G Mueller** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/01981/FUL: 3 Treasury View, Ickham, CT3 1QY Proposed single-storey rear extension to create additional family recreational space. **Applicant: Mr Drew** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/01984/FUL: Flat 1 (ground floor), 43 Beltinge Road, Herne Bay, CT6 6DA Replacement of existing timber framed ground floor front bay window with uPVC windows. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Barnes** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/01986/FUL: 44 Douglas Road, Herne Bay, CT6 6AE Replacement of existing ground and first floor front windows serving living room and bedroom with new uPVC framed units and replacement of uPVC front door. **Applicant: Mr Richard Allen** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/01989/FUL: 27 Mortimer Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5PJ Replacement of existing front windows. **Applicant: Miss N Rowland** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02000/FUL: Park View, Sturry A single-storey building comprising hall and ancillary rooms as a Community Centre for the residents of the Parish of Sturry, construction of associated car parking and relocation of children's play area. **Applicant: Sturry Parish Council** Reason: Major development.
- CA/13/02004/FUL: Solar Array, Molehill Road, Chestfield, CT6 7PA Installation of a 14.96MW solar farm and the associated infrastructure (total site area 21.07 hectares). **Applicant: Sunsave 29 (Molehill) Limited** Reason: Departure major setting of listed building.
- CA/13/02005/FUL: St Anne's Convent, Staines Hill, Westbere, CT2 0HP Installation of roof-mounted solar glazing panels on the south east and south west facing roof elevations. **Applicant: Congregation of Our Lady of The Missions** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02007/FUL: The Dell, Bridge Hill, Bridge, CT4 5AX Conversion/extension of integral garage to annexe and erection of replacement garage building. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Higson** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02010/FUL: 22 Plantation Road, Chestfield, CT5 3LG Photovoltaic installation to rear roof slope. **Applicant: Mr Young** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02014/FUL: The Old Oast, 35 Oaten Hill, Canterbury CT1 3HZ Conversion of existing unused garage space into a studio apartment. **Applicant: The Gravesend & District Real Estate Company** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
- CA/13/02015/LB: The Old Oast, 35 Oaten Hill, Canterbury CT1 3HZ Conversion of existing unused garage space into a studio apartment. **Applicant: The Gravesend & District Real Estate Company** Reason: Work to a listed building.
- CA/13/02017/FUL: 165 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1EE Erection of single-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Mecklenburgh** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02019/TPO: East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust, Kent & Canterbury Hospital, Ethelbert Road, Canterbury, CT1 3NG Proposed felling and crown reduction works to trees covered by TPOs. **Applicant: East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02023/LB: 55 St Dunstons Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BS Re-instatement of upper fascia at bay window involving removal of non-original bell-mouth render and installation of new hanging sign. **Applicant: Mr I Small** Reason: Work to a listed building.
- CA/13/02025/TPO: Hoods Place, 64 The Street, Kingston, CT4 6JG Reduction in height of trees covered by TPO No. 4 2001 and removal of other trees within the site. **Applicant: Mr Gurney** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02033/FUL: The Farmhouse, 2 Colewood Farmstead, Thanet Way, Herne Bay, CT6 7PE Erection of conservatory to rear of dwelling incorporating addition of a flue. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Croft** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
- CA/13/02034/LB: The Farmhouse, 2 Colewood Farmstead, Thanet Way, Herne Bay, CT6 7PE Erection of conservatory to rear of dwelling incorporating addition of a flue. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Croft** Reason: Work to a listed building.
- CA/13/02036/FUL: 32 Jubilee Road, Littlebourne, CT3 1TP Demolition of 2 no. outbuildings and side extension to no. 32 Jubilee Road and the erection of 2 no. 4 bedroom residential dwellings together with associated garages and parking areas. **Applicant: Mr M Huggett** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02041/LB: Shalmsford Farm, Shalmsford Street, Chartham Installation of 4 no. sun pipes and 4 no. roof lights. **Applicant: Pentland Homes Ltd** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
- CA/13/02046/VAR: 4-5 Upper Bridge Street, Canterbury, CT1 2NA Variation of condition 03 of planning permission CA/13/01003/FUL, relating to opening hours. **Applicant: Subway** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be submitted via public access on the planning pages of the website [www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc](http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc) to arrive on or before Monday 2 December 2013.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at [www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc](http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc)

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration  
Friday 8 November 2013

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# A lifetime in the ring

From boxer to referee, Ian John-Lewis talks to **Greg Miles** about his love of the sport and the transition from fighter to official for world heavyweight contests

**P**ASSION is a word used far too often for people who merely like things, but Ian John-Lewis is certainly someone you could label as being fanatical about his love of boxing.

It has been 20 years inside the ring now for the 51-year-old – and that's only as a referee. Before taking charge

of world heavyweight title fights involving Vitali Klitschko in front of the world's gaze, he was a boxer himself as a pro for five years.

Originally from Strood, he locks up prisoners during the day, which could not be any further removed from the attitudes he grew up around as a youngster. It was also a tough upbringing being one of the only black

people in his town, making him no stranger to defending himself in a scrap. His life changed, though, when he decided to pump iron with a friend at Strood Youth Club.

"When I was 14 I was this tall, skinny lad with broad shoulders and my mate said let's go to the youth club and do some weight-lifting," he said.

"We were doing some weight-

training for about six months, enjoying it and getting strong. Every Tuesday I went religiously."

The club started a Friday night boxing club which he was invited to, but John-Lewis laughed off the idea initially. However, he decided to go out of curiosity and fell in love.

"I could have shut that door there and then and that would have been the end of it," he said. "I got excited and started going Tuesday and Friday and it progressed from there. I was taught everything and then went to St Mary's in Chatham.

"It was a really hard, distinguished amateur club, I was really nervous.

"I was hooked then, bitten by the bug. It was great.

"It was boxing all the way. I'm not stupid or thick, but I'm not a clever person. I passed all my exams, but there was something about the boxing. I didn't do much reading, but the day I started boxing I went to the library and got out a load of boxing books.

"When I started boxing then, I never thought in my wildest dreams I would still be here."

**A**s a boxer he was successful but did not hit the heights, finishing with a record of 14 wins, nine knockouts, and six defeats, of which five were knockouts. His first two fights after turning pro in 1987 were defeats, which prompted his trainer to tell him that he might as well quit if he lost again. Needless to say, it sparked a determined streak in him as he won his next nine fights.

"I was absolutely livid," he said at his home at Newington, near Sittingbourne, as he relived every bit of the action from his next fight.

"I came out and I thought I'm not going to box – I'm going to fight. I came out steaming.

"I threw an almighty left hook and he was out like a light before he hit the canvas.

"I won nine fights on the trot, which led to the Southern Area Championship [against Trevor Smith] in 1989 – it was small-hall fight of the year.

"What pipped us was a month later Nigel Benn fighting Michael Watson, which became fight of the year."

John-Lewis was downed five times in that brutal battle but did knock Smith down once before being stopped in the eighth round. Before retiring in 1992, he was encouraged to go into refereeing, having always thought he would be a trainer.

"I was a natural," he said. "I had so much knowledge, but there was a lot of things I didn't know about the rules. The refereeing side of it, I had to learn all that."

Within seven years he had become an A-Class referee, which led to the big fights, including another proud moment as he refed the oldest man to

**“The fighter’s health is paramount. They don’t like to say no or quit and you’ve still got to give them the opportunity to fight. They’ve trained hard for it and it could be their only chance”**

**Ian John-Lewis,**  
boxer turned referee

be crowned world champion when American Bernard Hopkins beat Jean Pascal in Canada in 2011 at the second attempt at the age of 46.

It brought about more attention as he surprisingly found himself in the spotlight once again.

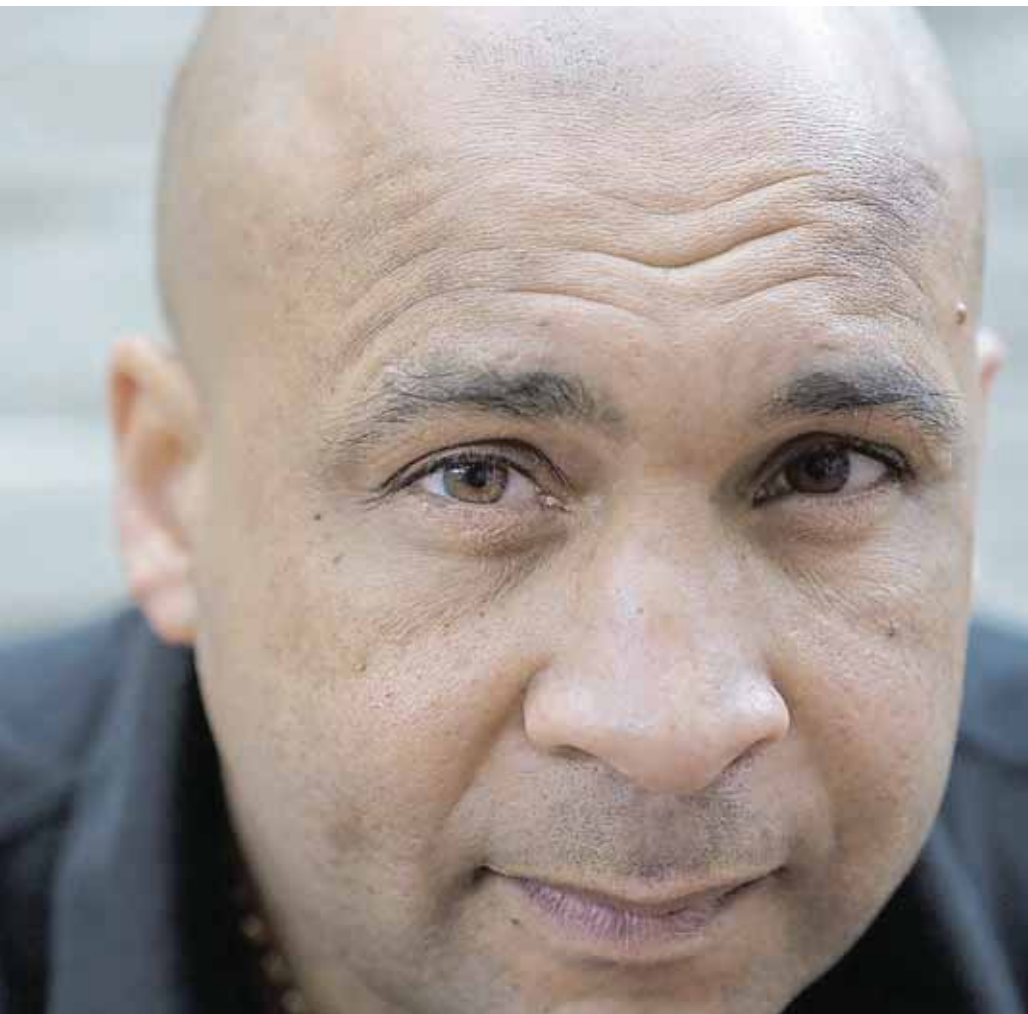
"As a fighter I had people come up to me for autographs and I thought that door had shut when I retired," he said. "A couple of years after I became a top referee it happened again. I must have this certain appeal."

Not all the attention is good, though, as boxing is no different to any sport when it comes to fans' opinions of referees.

"It does hurt, of course it does, because you do the best you can at that particular time," he said. "The fighter's health is paramount. The fighters don't like to say no or quit and you've still got to give them the opportunity to fight. They've trained hard for it







and it could be their only chance. We've got a split second to make a decision. It is annoying when they slag you off.

"If you want to be a referee and be liked it's quite a tough combination. There are a lot of people who think you're rubbish, but as long as the right people think you're good that's all that matters."

Being an ex-boxer gives him a unique perspective of the fight and allows him to avoid any unwanted contact. However, he did blot his copy book for the first time last month when Olympic heavyweight gold-medallist Anthony Joshua caught him during a fight at the O2 in London.

"He's the first person to hit me in the ring. We've had a good chat about it – he's such a lovely guy," he said.

"You could easily get caught or shoved during a fight. I pride myself on my movement and reactions to get out the way.

"As a former fighter, I'm anticipating their moves and what they're going to do. I don't stand still."

His success as a referee means he feels able to stake a claim as a referee in his own right.

"I was asked if I class myself as a referee or a boxer – I have to say now referee," he said. "When I started, everyone said 'Oh, it's that ex-boxer who's a referee'. Over the years, that's gone and I'm just a referee. There are a lot of people who don't even know I've boxed."

At the start it was an odd experience for a man who had fought every other time he had gone in the ring.

"I was advised to go down to the amateur club and walk the ring. Every time I had got in the ring I had

fought – I had never just walked around. It was strange at first," he said. "But it was natural to me."

Some fights obviously bring greater pressures than others, for instance the heavyweight title clash between Vitali Klitschko and Shannon Briggs in Hamburg in 2010.

Briggs was left in intensive care after taking a beating from the big Ukrainian over 12 rounds in a fight that many thought should have been stopped earlier. However, John-Lewis felt Briggs always had a chance.

"Refereeing the heavyweight championship of the world is like refereeing the world cup final," he said. "There was a lot of pressure and unfortunately it's one of the fights that I did get slated for. A lot of people felt Briggs had no chance. I was waiting for Klitschko to throw those extra few shots to end it."

**B**ack in the real world away from the cameras and the world's eye John-Lewis obviously has his 'day job' keeping him busy. Back in the days when he was a fighter he started out working in a paint factory in Strood.

"The money was quite poor then and my mates were out on the building sites earning good money," he said. "In the end I crumbled and went out with them. I had a job as a marble fixer in London. I was freezing out in the cold, I thought 'What have I done?'."

"I got made redundant from that, but a couple of weeks later I was a hod-carrier – that was a killer. Thankfully I was fit and found it OK."

"I look back to those days in 1984. I used to cycle to work in Hempstead from Gillingham, come home and

then go training hard. That was the power of youth.

"After that I went to work for an electrical company digging holes for the pipes and painting them. I did that for nine years.

"A lot of people think you're earning lots of money when you're boxing. They think of the Nigel Benns and Barry McGuigans – they are the elite. The bonus was if you're working, that boxing money is extra. That got me my first house."

He has been doing his current job as a detention officer at Gillingham police station for 18 years. It is a role that demands similar characteristics to being a referee, while he also sees a few familiar faces.

"I see some of the people I grew up with and some are the kids of the people I grew up with. That's where I come from, a rough area with rough geezers," he said. "Talking about the boxing is a great leveller."

"I command respect from the prisoners and they get my respect. I talk to them like I like to be treated. I'm a very respectful person. If it becomes naughty, then they see that as well. It's all about respect."

That job is a constant reminder of where he has come from and what he has achieved in his life.

"I had a tough upbringing, especially being black," he said. "I believe in fate. Because of the people I've met I don't believe it's by chance. I believe I was destined to meet these people. Like I nearly shut the door on boxing – it would have been over."

"I just can't believe it's me I'm talking about. That hard upbringing is a reminder to say don't forget where you've come from."

KMI

## Carberry (once of Kent) flays Aussies

IT might make the county's cricket fans wince, but former Kent player Michael Carberry blasted an unbeaten 153 on the first day of England's tour match against Australia A in Hobart, Tasmania.

The innings was part of an extraordinary day's cricket that saw England close on 318 for no wicket, captain and fellow opener Alastair Cook scoring at a near-identical pace to Carberry with 154 not out.

Disappointingly for all concerned – all right, perhaps not the Australian bowlers – the second and third days of the match were rained off.

Carberry's performance increases speculation that he might be in the running for the First Ashes Test, which starts in Brisbane on Thursday, November 21.

If he does make the Ashes team, it will be his second Test – his sole performance at that level coming against Bangladesh in 2010 – and continue an incredible rise for Carberry, whose explosive batting has been a big part of Hampshire's development into one of the strongest one-day sides in the country.

With four titles in five years, Hampshire have enjoyed the sort of success that Kent supporters can only dream of.

Carberry joined Kent from Surrey, playing for them from 2003-05. However, frustrated at the lack of opportunities at St Lawrence – he is quoted as saying "they [Kent] messed me about



**SWINGING:** Michael Carberry

quite a lot for three years" – he left for the 2006 season with Hampshire, where his career has blossomed.

The story is all the more remarkable given that in 2010 Carberry had a blood clot on the lung – a condition that could have claimed his life.

## Gills bolster midfield with loan signing of Mousinho

GILLINGHAM have strengthened their squad with the loan signing of John Mousinho from fellow League One outfit Preston North End.

The 27-year-old Londoner had captained the Lancashire side under former manager Graham Westley and played under Gills interim manager Peter Taylor during his time as boss of Wycombe Wanderers.

Mousinho started his professional career with Brentford and in October 2006 played 75 minutes in goal against the Gills in a 2-2 draw at Griffin Park after keeper Clark Masters had been sent off.

Two years later he moved to Wycombe, helping them clinch promotion to League One in his first season at the club. He scored three goals in 79 appearances ahead of a move to Stevenage in 2010.

Mousinho was his new club's top-scorer in his first campaign, netting eight times in 44 appearances from midfield, before following Stevenage boss Westley to Deepdale in May 2012, where he was named club captain for the 2012-13 campaign.

Gills boss Peter Taylor said: "I'm really pleased because we've had a couple of little injuries and we are light in certain areas, so to add to the squad it's good news for us."

"The Linganzi injury meant we could do with another midfield man and I know John very well. I signed him when I was at Wycombe and he did very well for us."

"He's a good athlete. He hasn't been playing in Preston's first team, so it's good for both parties."

"We took him from Brentford and he's a really good professional – he wants to improve all the time. He will certainly fit in perfectly with our spirit and what we want on the pitch."

"Preston is a big club – a different manager has gone in and different managers have different ideas. For John it's unlucky he hasn't been playing, but knowing John he would still have been knocking at the door to try and get in the team."

Mousinho joins the Gills on a two-month loan deal and was eligible to play in this weekend's FA Cup first-round tie at home to Brackley Town.

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